

CONFIDENTIAL

(5894.)

PART XIII.

**F.O.
403**

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

REPRODUCING THE

AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.

58

July to December 1886.

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92	Viscount Lyons ..	879	5,	Demnat Jews. Refers to No. 34, Part XII. Letter from Rabbi Amar. Request protection and compensation for them ..
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94	To Count Corti	Nov. 8,	Departure of French Minister with large staff to visit Sultan at city of Morocco. Refers to No. 30, and suggests object of visit ..
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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa.

PART XIII.

No. 1.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord,

Tunis, June 28, 1886.

IN my despatch No. 27 of the 7th instant I had the honour to report the return of the French Minister Resident from the tour which he undertook last month in the south of the Regency.

I have just received a detailed account from Mr. Vice-Consul Galea, of Sum, of the tour in question, from which it would appear that M. Cambon proceeded by sea to the frontier-town of Zarzis, on the mainland, to the south of the Island of Djerba, situated in latitude 33° 30'. Then he took a circuitous course across country up to Gabes in latitude 34°, keeping at distances varying from 5 to 15 miles from the coast, and occupying ten days in the journey.

Mr. Galea is of opinion that this visit, instead of doing good, will have injurious results. He bases his opinion in the fact that the Minister gave costly presents to numerous Arab Chiefs, which they will assuredly regard as a symptom of weakness. He draws attention to the circumstance that these tribes have not paid their "medjba," or poll tax, for five years, and M. Cambon found it prudent not to insist on payment for fear of raising disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 2.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 27.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 2, 1886.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 31, Confidential, of the 18th instant, and have to convey to you my entire approval of the advice which you have tendered to the Moorish Government with regard to the prevention of outrages on Christians and Jews in Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 3.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord,

Tangier, June 25, 1886.
AN Edict of the Sultan was read yesterday in the chief mosque at Tangier, declaring that the port of Assaka, in Soos, was about to be opened, and that the harbour will afford shelter to shipping and boats.

A salute was fired from the batteries on this announcement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 4.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 448.)

Foreign Office, July 3, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 29 of June 3, 1886: see Part XII, No. 95.]

No. 5.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clara Ford.

(No. 70.)

Foreign Office, July 3, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 29 of June 3, 1886: see Part XII, No. 95.]

No. 6.

Sir J. Parncefote to Consul-General Playfair.

(No. 2.)

Foreign Office, July 3, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 29 of June 2, 1886: see Part XII, No. 95.]

No. 7.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 460. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, July 7, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 31, Confidential, and of No. 27 to ditto, dated July 2, 1886: see Part XII, No. 99; and ante, No. 2.]

No. 8.

The Earl of Rosebery to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 472.)

Foreign Office, July 10, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 28 of June 28, 1886: ante, No. 1.]

No. 9.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir Clara Ford.

(No. 73.)

Foreign Office, July 10, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 35 of June 25, 1886: ante, No. 3.]

No. 10.

Sir J. Parncefote to Sir T. Farrer.

Foreign Office, July 10, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir J. Drummond Hay's No. 35 of June 25, 1886: ante, No. 3.]

No. 11.

Mr. White to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord,

Tangier, July 1, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Circular addressed by Sir John H. Drummond Hay to his colleagues, signifying to them his retirement from the post he has held so long as Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier, and taking leave of them.

It will no doubt be a satisfaction to your Lordship to learn from the observations of the various Representatives here how great is their regret at losing a colleague who by his frank and loyal conduct has made himself universally respected and esteemed, and to whom they were wont to apply for that advice and assistance which his great experience and sound judgment enabled him so well to give them. One of the Representatives lately remarked that after Sir John Drummond Hay's departure, the Diplomatic Corps would be like a ship which had lost its helmsman.

I transmit further the translation of a letter received by Sir John Drummond Hay from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, who likewise expresses his great regret at Sir John Drummond Hay's departure, and thanks him for the excellent manner in which he has conducted all affairs, and the kind consideration he has always shown the Moorish Government.

That it is not by his colleagues and the Moorish officials alone that Sir John Drummond Hay's departure is regretted is shown by the accompanying translation of a letter addressed to him by the Chief Rabbi and ten Elders, in the name of the Jewish community of this town, conveying to him the expression of their gratitude for the lively interest he has always evinced in the welfare of the Jews throughout this country, and for the frequent occasions on which he has successfully interceded on their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Circular addressed by Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Foreign Representatives at Tangier on his Retirement.

Messieurs et chers Collègues,

Légation Britannique, le 30 Juin, 1886.

MES fonctions comme Représentant de la Grande-Bretagne, de la Hollande, et du Danemark sont à la veille de prendre fin, et je me dispose à retourner en Angleterre.

En vertu des instructions qui m'ont été adressées par ces trois Gouvernements, Mr. Herbert White, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique, sera chargé du soin de leurs intérêts et de la direction de leurs affaires jusqu'à l'arrivée de mon successeur.

Si, à mon âge avancé j'éprouve une satisfaction bien naturelle à m'éloigner des affaires et si j'aspire au repos et au calme absolu, généralement incompatibles avec les fonctions publiques, ce n'est cependant pas, soyez en assurés, sans un profond regret que je vais me séparer de tous ceux de mes collègues avec lesquels j'ai eu la bonne fortune d'entretenir d'excellentes relations officielles et privées. J'ai à cœur de leur redire combien je suis reconnaissant de l'amitié sincère dont ils m'ont toujours donné des preuves, et j'espère fermement qu'ils voudront bien me la continuer.

M. Diosdado, Ministre Plénipotentiaire et Envoyé Extraordinaire de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, est appelé à exercer après moi les fonctions de Doyen.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Je ne saurais pas dire avec quel regret j'apprends la résolution de notre honorable collègue de se retirer du poste important dans lequel son Gouvernement l'a retenu tant qu'il lui a été possible.

Je le regrette non seulement à cause de mes relations particulières et privées, mais aussi à cause de relations officielles avec un Représentant si éclairé et si pratique des affaires au Maroc comme l'honorable Sir John Hay Drummond Hay.

Les fonctions de Doyen seront pour moi pénibles, pouvant donner lieu à une désavantageuse comparaison.

Je m'entendrai très volontiers avec Mr. Herbert White, chargé des intérêts de la Grande-Bretagne, de la Hollande, et du Danemark.

(Signé) JOSÉ DIOSDADO Y CASTILLO,
Ministre d'Espagne.

Personne ne peut regretter plus que moi la résolution de M. le Ministre d'Angleterre de quitter son poste actuel. Nouveau dans le pays, j'ai toujours eu recours à ses conseils, et je remplis un devoir en lui exprimant ici aussi toute ma reconnaissance pour l'amabilité avec laquelle il a bien voulu m'éclairer de ses lumières.

Je serai charmé de pouvoir continuer avec Mr. Herbert White les excellentes relations que j'ai eues avec lui jusqu'à ce jour.

Je me félicite d'avoir pour Doyen un homme d'État de tant de tact et d'expérience comme M. le Ministre d'Espagne.

(Signé) TESTA, Ministre d'Allemagne.

Je partage bien sincèrement tous les regrets exprimés par mes honorables collègues au sujet du prochain départ de son Excellence Sir John Drummond Hay, et je sais également cette occasion pour lui témoigner ma vive reconnaissance pour l'aimable accueil qu'il m'a fait à mon arrivée à Tanger ainsi que pour les bons avis et les excellents conseils qu'il a toujours bien voulu me donner, me faisant ainsi profiter, quand j'avais recours à lui, de sa longue expérience de ce pays. Je fais des vœux pour son bonheur et sa santé, ainsi que ceux de son honorable famille, et j'aime à me flatter de l'espoir que nous aurons le plaisir de les revoir parmi nous dans un avenir pas trop éloigné.

Je serai enchanté de continuer avec Mr. Herbert White les bonnes relations que nous avons toujours eues ensemble.

Je ne puis non plus que féliciter chaleureusement le Corps Diplomatique d'avoir pour Doyen son Excellence M. Diosdado y Castillo, dont j'ai pu apprécier, comme tout le monde, les éminentes qualités et les sentiments élevés.

(Signé) B. WHETNALL, Ministre de Belgique.

Comme mes collègues, c'est avec une peine profonde que je vois approcher le départ de notre Doyen Sir John Drummond Hay. Dans ses relations officielles, comme dans celles de la vie privée, il m'a vite attaché à lui. Toujours franc et loyal, autant que plein de tact, je m'applaudissais de la bonne fortune qui me l'avait fait rencontrer à mes débuts au Maroc et profiter de sa vaste expérience. Ses relations de famille à famille ont été cordiales, et si sûres que je n'hésite pas à dire qu'elles ont été pour les miens et pour moi un grand adoucissement dans notre vie Africaine.

M. Diosdado, notre nouveau Doyen, auquel je n'ai pas à affirmer mes sympathies, sait que je me félicite aussi de le voir succéder à Sir John. Quant à mes rapports avec Mr. Herbert White, ils seront, j'en suis certain, aussi parfaits qu'ils n'ont été jusqu'à ce jour.

(Signé) FÉRAUD, Ministre de France.

Le profond regret que j'éprouve pour le départ d'un collègue aussi éclairé, aussi honorable, et d'un caractère aussi noble, avec lequel j'ai eu le bonheur d'entretenir des relations officielles les plus cordiales et des rapports d'amitié la plus sincère, ainsi que pour le départ de son honorable famille, le profond regret, dis-je, est tempéré par l'espoir qu'il continuera à conserver envers moi les mêmes sentiments d'affectueuse amitié que je conserverai toute ma vie envers lui, et que de temps à autre il viendra

voir son vieil ami et collègue dans ce pays où il laisse la mémoire ineffaçable de sa sagesse comme homme d'État.

Je me félicite moi aussi que son Excellence M. Diosdado y Castillo, homme d'État aussi habile que modeste, succède comme notre Doyen à Sir John Drummond Hay.

Mes rapports officiels avec Mr. Herbert White seront, je n'en doute pas, aussi cordiaux qu'ils ont été jusqu'ici pour les affaires Consulaires.

(Signé) ETNE. SCOVASSO, Ministre d'Italie.

Si mes honorables collègues qui me précèdent éprouvent le profond regret qu'ils viennent d'exprimer pour le départ de notre cher Doyen et collègue, Sir John Hay Drummond Hay, et de sa famille bien aimée, que n'éprouverais-je dans cette pénible circonstance qui nous frappe à nous tous? Les rapports de son Excellence Sir John Hay et de sa famille avec moi et la mienne datent de 1814; ceux de son illustre prédécesseur et père avec mon père et les anciens membres de ma famille depuis 1833; moi et tous les miens conserverons toujours gravée dans la mémoire et dans le cœur l'amitié ferme et sincère de la famille Hay.

La seule compensation qui nous reste en voyant se départir d'entre nous cette noble et excellente famille, est de savoir que c'est pour son juste repos, après tant de longs services rendus, que notre cher collègue et Doyen s'est décidé à nous quitter. Que l'ange de la félicité soit avec eux partout, et nos vœux les plus sincères et les plus vifs pour leur bonheur les accompagneront toujours.

Au milieu de ce, pour nous, malheureux événement c'est très-satisfaisant de savoir que le digne Ministre d'Espagne, M. Diosdado y Castillo, dont l'excellent caractère est dûment apprécié par le Corps Diplomatique, est appelé à devenir son Doyen. Et quant à Mr. Herbert White, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique, je me plains d'entretenir avec cet honorable fonctionnaire, comme chef de poste intérimaire des Gouvernements signalés dans ce Circulaire, les relations les plus cordiales d'amitié et de réciprocité officielle et officielle.

(Signé) JOSÉ D. COLAÇO, Ministre de Portugal.

En lisant ce manifeste, qui vient de m'être envoyé, j'éprouve au sentiment de tristesse, car il parle du départ de notre Doyen estimé. Une nature pleine de justesse, de simplicité, un esprit fin et délicat, un cœur d'or pensant aux autres, un caractère auquel on peut se fier, une parole qui en lui-même personnifie cette expression si belle et si connue, la parole d'honneur, un ami en même temps qu'un conseiller, sage et expérimenté dans les moments d'indécision et de difficulté, voilà ce qu'est Sir John Drummond Hay, celui que le Maroc perd, celui que nous perdons, pareil au soleil couchant qui disparaissant laisse derrière lui le reflet de ses grandes qualités.

Quant à moi, devenu son neveu, de loin comme de près je lui serai bien respectueusement dévoué.

M. Diosdado est le digne successeur de Sir John Drummond Hay, étant l'ami de celui que nous perdons, et cela me fait un grand plaisir d'avoir l'honneur de le reconnaître comme notre Doyen.

Dans toutes mes relations avec Mr. Herbert White, je n'ai eu qu'à me féliciter de mes rapports avec lui et j'espère que cette bonne entente ne cessera de continuer.

(Signé) CASSEL, Consul-Général de Suède et Norvège.

La nouvelle de la retraite de notre honorable Doyen d'un poste qu'il a dignement occupé pendant un grand nombre d'années ne me surprend guère, étant donné que son âge avancé exige pour son Excellence le repos indispensable après une aussi longue carrière de devoirs diplomatiques.

Ainsi que tous mes collègues l'ont fait je suis heureux de souhaiter à Sir John H. Drummond Hay tout le bonheur qu'il peut désirer, et beaucoup d'années pour jouir des nombreuses marques d'honneur qu'il a gagnées.

Les relations affectueuses qui ont existé pendant un grand nombre d'années entre sa famille et la mienne rend pénible pour moi de lui dire adieu. Nous nous en souviendrons toujours avec estime et ferons les vœux les plus sincères pour leur future partout où ils seront.

Je me félicite, moi aussi, que son Excellence M. Diosdado y Castillo, homme

d'Etat aussi habile que modeste, succède comme notre Doyen à Sir John H. Drummond Hay.

Mes rapports officiels avec Mr. Herbert White seront, je n'en doute pas, aussi cordiaux qu'ils ont été jusqu'ici pour les affaires Consulaires.

(Signed) F. A. MATTHEWS, *Consul-Général des Etats-Unis.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Cid Mohammed Torres to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

Praise be to the one God.

TO our beloved friend, the honourable and judicious Minister Plenipotentiary of the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India, Sir John Hay Drummond Hay. We continue to make inquiry after your welfare, hoping that you may be in good health and prosperity; which premised—

We have received your letter dated the 26th June, informing us that your functions as Minister of the Queen of Great Britain, and Consul-General for the Netherlands, and as Consul-General for Denmark, will cease at the end of the aforesaid month, and that Mr. Herbert White, Her Majesty's Consul, will take charge of those duties, as directed by your Government and the aforesaid two Governments, until your successors are appointed.

We shall bear all this in mind.

We have to state that we regret much your departure, on account of the excellent manner you have conducted the affairs with which you have been entrusted, and your honourable procedure during a very long period; of which proofs have been given by your preserving always the most friendly relations between the two Governments.

Never has there been shown in the conduct of affairs by you but kind consideration, acting always as a friendly medium between the two Governments, seeking to promote friendship and good-will between them.

We have to convey to you our thanks for the excellent manner in which you have conducted and treated all affairs, for your active attention in all business, and for dealing in all matters with kind consideration.

May you continue in prosperity. With assurances of friendship finished.

(Signed) MOHAMMED ALARBY TORRES.

26 Ramadan, 1303 (June 28, 1886).

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Address of the Jewish Elders to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Tangier, June 23, 1886.

THE Undersigned, Elders of the Hebrew Community of this town, have the honour to offer to your Excellency the expression of their deep regret on learning the approaching retirement of your Excellency from the high post of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty in this Empire, and they deem it a high honour to have been charged to present to your Excellency on this occasion the testimony of their sincerest gratitude for the attention and interest that has always been shown by your Excellency to their coreligionists in Morocco. The noble acts remain indelible of your humanity and benevolence on many critical occasions, interceding in their (the Jew's) favour, having on one occasion saved the life of a coreligionist, and for having obtained indemnities for widows and orphans, who had turned their eyes upon the noble English Representative.

In conclusion, the Undersigned make fervent vows for your welfare and complete happiness, praying that Almighty God may preserve your Excellency and your noble family for many and happy years.

Your Excellency's humble servants,

(Signed by the Chief Rabbi and ten other Elders of the Hebrew Community at Tangier.)

No. 12.

Mr. White to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

Tangier, July 1, 1886.

AN incident has occurred here which has excited considerable attention. The Italian Minister, M. Scovasso, was walking in the principal street of the town the day before yesterday, when a Moor from the interior pushed against him repeatedly in an aggressive manner, and, upon M. Scovasso thrusting him aside with his stick, drew his dagger and attempted to stab him: M. Scovasso, however, averted the blow by closing with his assailant. A number of Moors witnessed the attack, but the struggle had lasted some little time before any of them interfered to protect the Italian Minister.

The man was eventually arrested and taken before the Basha, M. Scovasso accompanying him to lay his complaint before that functionary and demand his punishment.

By order of the Basha, the man was immediately flogged and cast into prison, and this morning was paraded through the town on a donkey, being compelled by blows to proclaim the cause of his punishment.

A meeting of the foreign Representatives was yesterday held at the Italian Legation, at the invitation of M. Scovasso, to consider what steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such an offence.

It was resolved that the Representatives should address identic letters to the Vizier, requesting that orders be given that soldiers be stationed at different parts of the town to act as police and preserve the peace, and also that a rule be established that bystanders witnessing attacks of this description and not attempting to render assistance to the victim be punished.

Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Acting Minister, called on M. Scovasso this morning to express his regret at the occurrence, and the Basha has announced his intention of paying a formal official visit at the Italian Legation to-morrow with the same object.

It appears that the man who committed the assault is a native of Draa, the southernmost province of Morocco, and was passing through Tangier on a pilgrimage to Mecca. I am not inclined to attribute this occurrence to any general fanatical feeling, but rather to the fact of the man coming from a part of the country where Europeans are unknown, and also to its being the month of Ramadan, when Mussulmans are proverbially quarrelsome and out of temper on account of their long fast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 13.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. White.

(No. 29.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 17, 1886.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 42 of the 1st instant, forwarding copies of the communications received by Sir J. D. Hay upon the occasion of his retirement from the Public Service from his diplomatic colleagues, from the Moorish Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and from the Chief Rabbi and Elders of Tangier; and I have to express my satisfaction at the testimony which they all bear to the high character and distinguished services of Sir John Drummond Hay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 14.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 29.)

Sir,

Tunis, July 19, 1886.

ON the celebration in Tunis of the French national fête of the 14th July the Minister Resident made a speech to the French Colony, in which he recalls the time when, four years ago, he was appointed to administer the affairs of the Regency, and directs attention to the improvement which in that interval has taken place in all branches of the Administration. M. Cambon points to the savings effected in that period, amounting to 720,000*l.*, with the double object of constructing the long-talked-of port at Tunis, and of forming a fund for insuring the continued efficiency of the several

public services, which without such a guarantee would be exposed to interruption in the event of a deficit consequent on a bad harvest.

In responding to the wish expressed by the French Colony, that he should continue to carry on the work of Administration, M. Cambon spoke in terms which have left the impression that his departure to-day for France, ostensibly on leave of absence, will really sever his connection with Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWICH.

No. 15.

Mr. White to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord,

Tangier, July 17, 1896.

WITH reference to Sir John Drummond Hay's despatch No. 31 of the 13th ultimo, reporting to your Lordship the occurrence of a rising at Fez, when, were it not for the energetic action of the authorities in quelling the riot, the Jews of that town would probably have been severely handled, and even massacred, by the Mussulmans, and their houses sacked, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have received from the Vizier Cid El-Mfadi Garneet, complaining of the aggressive conduct of the Jews, and disclaiming responsibility for any acts of reprisal which may be resorted to by the Mussulmans.

As letters identical to the inclosed had been received by all the foreign Representatives, the Spanish Minister, who since the departure of Sir John Drummond Hay has become the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, invited his colleagues to meet at the Spanish Legation to take this letter into consideration, and to decide on the terms of the reply to be given to the Vizier.

At the meeting which was held in response to this invitation, it was unanimously resolved that the replies of all the Representatives should be in the same sense, but not identical; that Cid el-Mfadi Garneet should be informed that it cannot be admitted that the Government should hold itself irresponsible for disturbances by which the lives and property of its Jewish subjects may be sacrificed; that the authorities had shown themselves competent to deal effectively with the riot in this case; and that, if proper precautionary measures are adopted, they would be in a position to prevent any future threatened disturbance; that, though there may have been cases in which Jews have been guilty of the conduct imputed to them in the Vizier's letter, these have been merely isolated cases, and cannot be regarded as symptoms of insubordination on the part of the Jews generally throughout the Empire.

I inclose herewith translation of the letter I have addressed Cid el-Mfadi Garneet in the sense agreed upon at the meeting. I do not transmit the second letter of the Vizier (that of the 2nd July) referred to in my reply to him, as it merely recapitulates the substance of the former letter, and expatiates at length on the misconduct of the Jews, whereby, he alleges, they have incurred the hatred of the Mussulmans, in contrast, as he adds, to the Christians, who, by their general good behaviour and fair dealing, have won their regard.

Though the picture drawn by the Vizier of the conduct of the Jews is, no doubt, inapplicable to the Hebrew community as a whole, I fear that the conduct of many of them fully justifies the language held by the Vizier.

It will be within your Lordship's recollection that Sir John Drummond Hay frequently pointed out the serious consequences that will some day ensue if means cannot be found for checking the abuses of which many Jews are guilty, for the cruelties practised on many unfortunate Moors, and the sufferings they have been made to endure to satisfy the usurious and frequently unfounded claims of Jews,* especially of some of those who enjoy foreign protection, have certainly earned for them the hatred of the Mussulmans, who will not be slow to seize any opportunity that may be afforded them for taking vengeance on the community at large; and should such an opportunity unhappily arise, through the Government being paralyzed by foreign complications or by internal revolutions, a general massacre of the Jews and Christians would probably ensue, for there would be no discrimination of sect on the part of the excited mob.

In writing thus of the Jews, I do not wish it to be understood that they alone are guilty of such misdeeds; unfortunately there are Christians also who are not ashamed to resort to similar malpractices; but whilst the Jews are numerous throughout the Empire there are not, perhaps, half-a-dozen Christians residing in the interior.

* See despatches No. 6, January 10; and No. 31, December 14, 1883.—H. E. W.

I wish to add that by no one is the misconduct of these Jews more condemned than by the respectable classes of their own community, but even their Rabbis and Elders are powerless to prevent a state of affairs which they deplore.

In illustration of this I may mention two facts related at the above-mentioned meeting of the foreign Representatives. The French Minister, M. Féraud, informed us that when he was at Morocco on the occasion of his mission to the Court last year, a deputation of Jews waited upon him with a Petition that he would request the Sultan to grant a piece of ground for the extension of the Jews' quarter. M. Féraud made their wishes known to the Sultan, and His Majesty directed that a plot of land outside the town walls adjoining their quarter be delivered to the Jews for this purpose.

On M. Féraud's informing the deputation that the Sultan had graciously acceded to their Petition, they asked that a condition should be made that no protected Jew should live in the new quarter, in order that in the event of a rising against the Jews, the Mussulmans should be able to distinguish between the protected and unprotected Jews, and spare the latter.

M. Diosdado, the Spanish Minister, stated that some years ago, at a time when the subject of protection was under the consideration of his Government, he received a letter from a Rabbi of Fez, pointing out the danger arising to the Jews generally from the misconduct of those of their number who were under protection, and foretelling that some day the Mussulmans, enraged at the ill-treatment they had suffered at their hands, would make an attack on the Jews generally. The Rabbi added that it was not only the Mussulmans who are oppressed by the Jews under protection, but that many of their co-religionists also, who did not enjoy such protection, were frequently their victims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Cid Emsadi Garneet to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

June 21, 1896.

LETTERS from Fez have been received at the Sherrefian Court reporting that on the 16th Shaban last, equivalent to the 10th May, a Jew attempted to enter the Government buildings in New Fez, and was prevented by the sentry stationed at the gate by order of the Governor, whereupon the Jew and his Hebrew companions attacked the sentry, striking him with knives and stones, and wounding him so severely that his life is still in danger.

In consequence of this occurrence, a Mussulman mob collected round them and regarded them with eyes of hatred, and they (the Jews) and their "Mellah" narrowly escaped being enveloped in the flames of a riot, which would have spread through the town, were it not for the aid of God (exalted be His name) and for the action of the Government authorities, who adopted all possible and suitable means for quelling the disturbance, and arrested the Jews whose names are mentioned in the margin,† who acted towards the Mussulman in the manner above stated, and took severe measures to restrain the Mussulman mob.

There can be no doubt that this Jew passed all bounds by his insolence and audacity in attempting to force an entrance into the Government building, and by his above-mentioned conduct towards the sentry at the gate. He thus exposed his life to destruction, for had the sentry killed him, and not had forbearance, his blood would have been justly spilled, as the sentry is placed at the gate solely to prevent people passing, and a person forcing an entrance, risks his life in accordance with religious and civil law.

Our Lord the Sultan (whom God assist) has commanded me to acquaint you with this, in order that you should know that this Jew placed himself and his brethren in jeopardy and risked creating a disturbance in that quarter in the absence of the Government, and that you should be more thoroughly aware of the conduct of the Jews in these dominions, for if the weaker amongst them act in this manner, how will the more powerful act? and also that you should bear this in mind, for the Government declines all responsibility, unless the Jews abandon their present behaviour and return to what has been compacted for them, for their present conduct is likely to bring about events

* "Ghetto," or Jews' quarter.—H. E. W.

† The Jew Solomon Ben Habib el Zenali, 1; the Jew, his brother Beuben, 1; the Jew Judah Ben Israel, 1; total, 3.

which it will be difficult to remedy or restrain, and the consequences of which will fall upon themselves and upon their property.

May you continue in prosperity!

Finished the 18th Ramadan, 1303 (June 21, 1886)

(Signed) MOHAMMED EL M'FADL BEN MOHAMMED GARNEET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Mr. White to Cid Emfadi Garneet

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

July 16, 1886.

I HAVE received your letter of the 18th Ramadan (the 21st June) regarding the late disturbance at Fez, in which, after explaining that it was caused by the misconduct of three Jews, who attempted to force their way into the Government buildings, and severely wounded the sentry who tried to prevent their passing, you state that the Jews by their acts of injustice and oppression towards the Mussulmans have incurred their hatred, and that should a riot occur and there be a general rising of the Mussulmans against the Jews, the Government may be unable to check it, and you therefore give me notice that the Government will accept no responsibility in the matter, as the Jews will have brought such a catastrophe upon themselves by their evil doings.

I have likewise received your letter of the 24th Ramadan (the 1st July) in reply to the letter which Sir J. D. Hay addressed you on the 10th Ramadan (the 15th June) expressing his satisfaction at the peaceably and energetic conduct of the Government and of the authorities at Fez in quelling the riot in question, and in protecting the Jews, and warning you of the serious consequences that would ensue were the Jews to suffer in person or in property from any general attack of the Mussulmans, and further recommending that orders be given to the Governors and officials of the various towns in the interior to guard against any such risings. In your said letter you recapitulated the substance of your former letter of the 18th Ramadan, and you again expatiated on the evil conduct of the Jews, comparing their behaviour to that of the Christians, and pointing out how they are a source of constant vexatious questions of this description, whilst no such questions arise regarding Christians.

In reply, I have to repeat what Sir J. D. Hay, in his above-mentioned letter, already informed you of, that every Government is responsible for the maintenance of order and peace in its country, and the Shercofian Government cannot disclaim the responsibility for any riot that may occur in these domains, by which the lives or property of its subjects, of whatever creed, may be sacrificed.

The act of insubordination of the three Jews who tried to force their way into the Government buildings at Fez, was an isolated case, and there are no symptoms of general insubordination of the Jews throughout the Empire. Amongst the large number of Jews in this country, there must necessarily be many men of bad character, but the whole Hebrew community cannot be held responsible for isolated acts of a few of their co-religionists, nor can the Government on account of such acts disclaim responsibility for any unjust and exaggerated reprisals on the part of the Mussulmans, of which the Jews may be the victims.

The Shercofian Government has shown itself capable of taking effective measures for the suppression of such tumults, and I am convinced that His Shercofian Majesty, in his wisdom and well-known sense of justice and benevolent sympathy for his weaker subjects, will issue stringent orders to all his officers to take all necessary precautions for the immediate suppression of any similar ebullition of popular feeling that may occur on future occasions. Soldiers should be stationed in different parts of the towns, more especially in the neighbourhood of the Jewish quarters, to ensure peace and tranquillity and to give immediate notice to the authorities should the presence be required of a larger number of soldiers to disperse rioters.

Any British subject or person under British protection, who may be proved guilty of aggressive conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace, will be severely punished on the fact being brought to the knowledge of the Consular officer, and the Moorish Government can act similarly towards its subjects without distinction of religion or class.

I will transmit a translation of your letter to Her Majesty's Government, and will request that the substance be communicated to the principal Jewish Associations in England, in order that they may warn their co-religionists in this country to be very careful to abstain from any conduct that may give rise to ill-feeling on the part of their Mussulman fellow-subjects.

[Insertion in p. 11.]

No. 18*.

Mr. White to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 16)

(No. 48.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 5, 1886.

WITH reference to the despatches marked in the margin* regarding the newspapers published in this town by foreign subjects, of whom five are British and one German,† I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which has been addressed to me by Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting the absolute suppression of all newspapers in Morocco, on the ground that they tend to promote discord and to give rise to vexatious questions, and protesting that, unless his request be acceded to, he cannot be called upon to carry into effect the Treaty obligations, referring thereby to Article III of the Treaty, which stipulates that respect and honour shall always be paid to the Representatives, and that no one shall commit any act of disrespect towards them, either by word or by deed.

An identical letter was addressed to each of the foreign Representatives.

At the request of the Moorish authorities warnings have repeatedly been given to the editors and printers of the various newspapers, but generally with little effect. It is true that the tone of some of these journals has improved of late, but, nevertheless, they still frequently contain scurrilous articles and calumnious personal attacks that have given rise to much ill-feeling and rancour amongst the European residents, officials and others, whilst the Moorish Government and its officers are frequently the object of severe attack.

One of these local papers having recently contained a cartoon and articles of a gross and scandalous character, Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres addressed a letter to Sir J. Drummond Hay requesting that steps be taken to prevent the publication of such matter, and, by direction of Sir J. Drummond Hay, I warned the editor of this paper to be careful not to repeat the offence. No attention whatever was paid to the warning, the paper in question having since contained articles and a cartoon of a still worse type. This incident is, I believe, the immediate cause of the present demand for the suppression of the press.

The absolute suppression of the press is a measure that must always be repugnant to the feelings of Englishmen, and in a country where the Law Courts have ample powers to deal with offences of the press, so arbitrary a measure would be inexcusable. It should be borne in mind, however, that in Morocco it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the authorities of the country to exercise any control over the press, or to inflict any fine or other punishment on the printer or publisher of a newspaper, should he be a foreign subject or under foreign protection. Attempts to inflict such punishments would probably give rise to disputes and differences with foreign officials as to rights of jurisdiction, whilst to establish a censorship, which would be ineffective, would be to accept the responsibility for an evil they are unable to put a stop to.

Lord Granville, in his despatch No. 4 of the 27th January of last year, informed Sir J. Drummond Hay that the question of the press is one in which he should take no direct action; that it is competent to the Moorish Government to prohibit absolutely the publication of any newspaper in Morocco by a British subject; and that the question of suppressing or interfering with the publication of journals depends on the law of Morocco, which the Moorish Government is entitled to enforce.

The Moorish Minister observes in his letter that there are no Press Laws in Morocco. This is accounted for by the fact that hitherto there has been no occasion for them, as printing-presses were unknown in the country until within the last few years.

I thought it advisable, before taking any action in the matter, to ascertain what reply the other Representatives proposed to make to the letter of Hadj Mohammed Torres. I found it was the general opinion that it would be well to meet together to exchange views on the subject, and, at my suggestion, M. Dio-dado, the Spanish Minister and Doyen, invited the Representatives to meet at his house with this object.

A meeting was accordingly held at the Spanish Legation, which was attended by all the Representatives except the Swedish Consul-General, who was indisposed, and the

* No. 104, November 16, 1884; No. 69, July 23; No. 79, November 27, 1885; No. 34, June 24, 1886, and Foreign Office, No. 4, January 27, 1885.

† The paper published by the German is printed at Oren.—H. E. W.

* See Inclosure in No. 34, June 24, 1886.

United States' Consul, who addressed a lengthy letter to the Doyen, stating that he could not attend the meeting,* but that he considered the press a great boon to the country, and would never consent to its suppression in Morocco, and that he wished his note to be recorded in that sense in the Protocol of the meeting. As the object of the meeting was merely to exchange views on the subject of Hadj Mohammed Torres' letter, and not to vote for or against the suppression of the press, which was beyond our powers, M. Diosdado decided to return to the United States' Consul his letter, informing him that as no Protocol of the meeting would be drawn up it was out of his power to give effect to his request.

The Portuguese Minister held that, foreign subjects in Morocco being solely under the jurisdiction of their respective Consuls, the Moorish officials have no authority over them, and cannot, therefore, prohibit their publishing newspapers, and he added that he would maintain the right of Portuguese subjects to print and publish newspapers in this country. He admitted that it is necessary that a stop be put to the publication of such scandalous articles as had appeared, but maintained that this should be effected by the proof sheets being submitted to the Consul of the nation of which the publisher is a subject, and that the Consul should perform the duties of a censor.

In stating my views, I was careful to use language in strict conformity with the substance of the above-mentioned despatch of Lord Granville. I also mentioned that an analogous question had formerly arisen regarding the Press Laws in the Ottoman Empire, and the Powers had recognized the right of the local authorities to exercise jurisdiction in such matters. I expressed, however, a doubt whether the letter we had received from Hadj Mohammed Torres could be recognized as sufficient, or whether there should not rather be a formal Decree of the Sultan on the subject. With regard to the suggestion of the Portuguese Minister, I remarked that it would be impracticable for the Consuls to act as censors of the press.

The French, German, Italian, and Spanish Ministers all concurred in the opinion that there could be no doubt that the Moorish Government has the right to prohibit the printing or publishing of newspapers in the Sultan's dominions, or to establish any Press Laws it pleases, which are not contrary to the Treaty engagements.

The Belgian Minister seemed to doubt the right of the Moorish Government in this respect, but did not express any decided opinion in the matter.

I have deferred replying to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres' letter, and shall take no action upon it until I am in possession of your Lordship's instructions as to whether I am to consider that letter as sufficient grounds for permitting the suppression of the local newspapers printed or published by British subjects, and in such case, as to how far I am to co-operate with the local authorities in enforcing this measure, should a British subject refuse to comply with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 11 A.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

18th Shawal, 1303 (July 21, 1886).

YOU are aware that in Morocco we have no special Law for the press, and in any case, even if we had [such a law] like other [nations], we should not be able to enforce it; for those who conduct the newspapers are foreign subjects, and are not subject to the laws of this country in what is connected with their persons, such as this matter, and when we formerly observed that the newspapers were attacking some foreign subjects, and defaming the honour of many people, we were afraid that this would increase until harm might arise to some of the Representatives or members of their Missions, whom we are bound by Treaty to respect and protect from the attacks of others. Therefore, since we have no power to prevent that, we request of you the total suppression of the newspapers that are printed in these dominions. Otherwise, we hereby renew our protest that we shall not be required to fulfil the Treaties, if harm should arrive to some of the Representatives or members of their Missions.

(Signed) MOHAMMED EL ARBY TORRES.

* The United States' Consul has for some years abstained from attending the meetings of the foreign Representatives.—H. E. W.

I trust by these means and by a continuation of the prudent conduct of which the authorities at Fez have already given evidence, the public tranquillity will not again be disturbed. Peace.

(Signed) H. E. WHITE.

No. 16.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. White.

(No. 32.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1886.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 45 of the 17th instant, in which you inclose a copy of a letter which you have received from the Vizier Cid El M'Faddal in connection with the recent rising at Fez, complaining of the aggressive conduct of the Jews, and disclaiming responsibility for any acts of reprisal which might be resorted to by the Mussulmans, and a copy of a note which, in concert with your colleagues, you have addressed to the Vizier in reply.

I have to state to you that your action in this matter meets with my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY

No. 17.

*Sir J. Pauncefoot to Sir J. Goldsmid, M.P. (Anglo-Jewish Association).**

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 7, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Anglo-Jewish Association, a copy of a despatch recently received from Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in Morocco, dealing with the question of the position and attitude of the Jews in that country.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOOT

No. 18.

Messrs. A. F. and R. W. Tweedie to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 12.)

My Lord,

5, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, August 11, 1886.

WE are instructed to prepare a Memorial to Her Majesty's Government relative to the claims of Lieutenant-General Hamda Benayad against Lieutenant-General Talwar, the Governor of a Tunisian province, as to which Sir Lyon Playfair wrote to the Foreign Office in the month of May last.

It will perhaps be useful to mention that the claims of General Benayad are made in his capacity of a British-protected subject, whose position as such is recognized by Lord Granville in a despatch No. 41 to Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis in the year 1884.

We propose to call at the Foreign Office with the Memorial early to-morrow afternoon, and it may be of service that this letter to your Lordship be received beforehand.

We are, &c.
(Signed) A. F. AND R. W. TWEEDIE

No. 19.

Messrs. A. F. and R. W. Tweedie to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 16.)

My Lord,

5, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, August 14, 1886.

REFERRING to our letter of the 11th instant, we beg leave to submit to your Lordship the accompanying Memorial of the General Hamida Benayad, which sets out the facts of which he has great reason to complain, and in respect of which as a British-

* A similar letter was addressed to Mr. A. Cohen (London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews).

† No. 17.

protected subject domiciled at Tunis he seeks the friendly assistance of Her Majesty's Government.

The General is now in London, and would be exceedingly grateful if your Lordship would kindly grant him an interview, in order that he may have the opportunity of affording certain personal explanations which are necessary for the full comprehension of the wrongs suffered by him, and with that object may also be an assistance to your Lordship.

We are, &c.
(Signed) A. F. AND R. W. TWEEDE.

Inclosure in No. 19.

General Benayad to the Earl of Iddesleigh.

My Lord,

August 14, 1886.

THE General of Brigade, Hamida Benayad, an English-protected subject domiciled and living at Tunis, has the honour to apply to your Lordship to request the powerful intervention and assistance of Her Majesty's Government in the critical state in which he has been placed by the conduct of the Agents of the Tunisian Government.

He desires to call your Lordship's attention to the fact, that he has already in the month of August 1885 requested and obtained such assistance in reference to claims which he had to press against the Tunisian Government (Annex 1).

He also wishes to mention that Lord Granville, in a letter dated the 23rd September, 1884, addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Tunis, has been good enough to assure Hamida Benayad that he can rely on English protection (Annex 2).

The General has, therefore, not hesitated to apply once more to the English Government, and to submit to your Lordship his complaints, for things have reached such a point that if English protection be not vouchsafed him, the General will before long be completely ruined by the vexatious treatment to which he is subjected and obliged to leave his country for ever.

The facts which are the immediate cause of the present application are as follows:—

The General Hamida Benayad was in the year 1885 indebted to M. Valensi, a banker at Tunis, in the sum of 591,101 piastres, equivalent to 14,773*l.*, and this debt was secured by mortgage on certain properties situate within the Regency. The debt was due on the 1st July, 1885, and as the General had not been able at that date to pay off the mortgage, M. Valensi brought an action before the Tribunal of Tunis to obtain payment of his debt, and in default of payment within a fixed time to get the mortgaged properties sold by auction.

The General fully admitted that he was under the obligation of paying the sum borrowed, but asked for certain delay on the grounds that he had already sold to a Tunisian named Hadj Ayad a certain quantity of the lands given in mortgage in consideration of a sum sufficient to pay off his creditor, and that the present Bey, Sidi Ali, on hearing of this sale had put in an opposition against payment, alleging that these properties bought by Hamida Benayad from Mustapha ben Ismail had been illegally given to the latter by the Bey Mohammed-el-Saddock, and that, under these circumstances, it was reasonable to allow the General some further time to pay off the mortgage debt.

Notwithstanding this demand for further time the General was, after a short delay, ordered by a Judgment of the French Tribunal of Tunis, dated the 23rd November, 1885, to pay M. Valensi the sum claimed, together with interest and costs.

According to French law the execution of all Judgments is carried out in such a manner as to give the debtors, in case their land or goods is taken in execution and sold, certain guarantees as to delays and publicity which, in attracting to the sales numerous purchasers, protect the debtors against sales being effected surreptitiously and at ruinously low prices.

M. Valensi, however, found it more convenient not to observe these formalities, and he continued, by means of the assistance of a Tunisian official, the General Tahar ben Hassan, to take possession of all the crops, not only of the mortgaged properties, but also other properties belonging to the General Hamida Benayad and the crops of properties belonging to the General's son, Sidi Abdul Gelil Benayad.

The summary procedure which has been followed is most simple.

By a Circular addressed to all the Caïds (Under-Governors) of his province (Annex 3), the General Tahar ben Hassan, Governor of Elonatan-el-Kalli, has signified that a

seizure had been operated in his hands by M. Valensi, acting under power of the said Judgment of the Tribunal of Tunis of the 23rd November, 1885, and that the Caïds would in their turn have to seize all the existing crops, or otherwise they would be personally liable for the value thereof, and the monstrous part of the affair is, that Tahar ben Hassan, who resides at Tunis, where he is General Commander of the Guard of His Highness the Bey, and who knows Hamida Benayad well, said in his Circular that the said Hamida being dead, his son, Abdul Gelil, as heir, was responsible for the debts of his father, and that all the crops belonging to the son were to be seized under the same Judgment.

The General was not informed of this seizure, of which he was only apprised indirectly after about two-thirds of the crops had already been sold at ridiculously low prices. For instance, the crop of 4,500 olive trees were sold for 1 piastre and 9 caroules, which is equivalent to about 10*d.* of English money, and the crop of another forest produced about 1*d.* per tree, whereas olive trees produce about five times as much.

To prevent a complete loss the General Hamida Benayad and his son summoned Valensi and Tahar ben Hassan before the Tribunal on an interlocutory motion, so that before the case could be judged on its merits a receiver might be named with power to sell immediately in the ordinary way the crops on the properties seized, and to hold the money for whoever might be entitled to it.

On this summons the Judge made an order on the 28th December, 1885 (Annex 4), appointing a receiver to sell the crops taken in execution by a "huissier" acting under the order of Valensi, but as for those seized by Tahar ben Hassan, acting under his powers as Governor of the Province of Elonatan-el-Kalli, the Judge declared himself incompetent, as this was an act of the Tunisian authority.

It is a principle of French law that the Judicial Tribunals are not competent to judge acts of the Executive authorities, but the administrative Tribunals are alone competent.

The General then applied to the "Procureur de la République" at Tunis, who appointed M. Granjou, huissier, to verify these facts, and to make a Report thereon.

This Report has been forwarded to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Tunis to be forwarded to your Excellency through Sir R. L. Playfair, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers.

Meanwhile, the General Benayad has endeavoured to obtain damages through the Tribunal at Tunis, but a Judgment of the 31st July last (Annex 5) has condemned Valensi to pay merely nominal damages, and has declared Tahar ben Hassan not responsible. As the latter, according to the Judgment, has merely acted in accordance with the Tunisian customs, and was ignorant of the French rules of practice, which rules, as your Lordship well knows, were established after the suppression of the English Consular Courts, and to the benefits of which the English privileged subjects are entitled.

The facts submitted to your Excellency will, it is supposed, show the particularly painful position in which Hamida Benayad is placed, as he is thus subjected to the most arbitrary and vexatious proceedings, and left without any means of obtaining redress. Nor is this all, for a further proof of the arbitrary conduct of the Tunisian authorities is submitted to your Lordship. It is as follows:—

The General Benayad possesses at Tunis on the "Quartier de la Marine" (one of the finest and most important parts of the town) certain plots of land which he bought more than forty years ago, and of which he has always been possessed without any claim being made against him. A short time before the establishment of the French Protectorate, the College Sadiki having made a claim against these properties, Benayad informed the British Consul of this, and, acting under the Consul's authority, he put guardians in.

In 1884 a Frenchman residing at Tunis named Alfred Nue asserted a claim to one of these pieces of land situated in the Bel Manouba Street, on the ground that he had obtained the concession of it from the Sadiki College, and applied to the Justice of the Peace, before whose Court he brought a possessory action.

Actions of this kind are considered personal actions by French law, and the Court has merely to examine the question of fact and to give over possession to the party who has been possessed of the land as owner in a peaceful and public manner for more than one year.

Nue's action was dismissed by the Justice of the Peace, and Hamida Benayad was maintained in possession.

He placed guardians on his land and used to let it to waggons, who paid him certain sums to put their carts on the land.

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In the month of May last the Municipality of Tunis published an order that all the owners of unbuilt land in Tunis should fence them in.

Sidi Hamida, long before this order was published, had requested the Municipality to give him the necessary authorization to fence in his land, and no answer was ever given to his request.

The aforesaid Nuc, however, made a similar demand, and obtained immediately the authorization to fence in this land to which he had no title whatever, not being the owner of it nor in possession in any way whatever, and about a month ago notwithstanding the opposition of the guards and all the tenants Nacira, and, with the assistance of the Tunisian police, he took possession of the land, driving out those who occupied it, and then he fenced it in.

The Commissioner of Police at Tunis even went so far as to threaten to throw the guardians of the land into prison if they offered any resistance.

A protest was immediately lodged with the British Consul, who complained to the Tunisian Minister through the Agency of the French Resident; but no answer has been received. On an interdictory summons taken out against the said Nuc, the President of the Tribunal refused to intervene, leaving the parties to take whatever further remedy they may have, but gave Nuc notice of the fact that he had only erected the fence, the object of the action in accordance with the orders of the Municipality (Annex 8).

General Hamida Benayad has uselessly attempted to enforce the Judgment of 1884, declaring him entitled to the possession of the land, for when he formally requested the assistance of the Government to force him to do so, the French Court he obtained nothing but a refusal, and the Tunisian Government has not yet complied with his demand. All these facts have been brought to the notice of the British Consul at Tunis, who no doubt has received them from the French Consul at Tunis along with documents which accompanied his complaints.

These facts before related form but a small part of the system of vexatious proceedings by which certain Agents of the Tunisian Government have endeavoured, and still endeavour, to ruin the General Hamida Benayad.

It has been pointed out to your Lordship that when the properties mortgaged to the Banker Valensi were sold, Sidi Ali Bey of Tunis intervened to prevent the buyer from paying the purchase money, and a few explanations will show to your Lordship that the opposition, which has been held groundless by the Court of Appeal of Algiers, has had most disastrous results, and yet it is impossible for the General to obtain redress from the Bey.

As the General has already pointed out, he was indebted to Valensi, whose debt was secured by a mortgage. Four months before the time when the money was due the General sold a certain portion of the property to a man of the name of Hadj Ayad, to provide himself with funds to make the payment.

These properties had been bought by the General a few years before from Mustapha ben Ismail, and at that time there was a certain amount of litigation between the General Hamida ben Ben Ismail, owing to the fact that the latter had disposed of the crops of this land for a number of years in advance, but nevertheless the Consulate Tribunal first, and the Court of Appeal of Aix afterwards held that Sidi Hamida was bound to take the land at the purchase price, and at that time the Tunisian Government did not make any objection to this purchase; but on the resale of part of this land to Hadj Ayad, and at the very time that this purchaser was going to pay the purchase money, the General Hamida Benayad to repay to Valensi the mortgage money. Sidi Ali Bey, of Tunis, on the 8th November, 1884, put in an act of protest (Annex 7) against this sale, stating that these lands were Habbous and could not be alienated, and that therefore the gift of them made by the Bey Mohammed-el-Sadock to Mustapha ben Ismail was null and void.

Now the deed of gift is sealed with the seal of the Bey himself, and according to a letter addressed by the Bey to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, and which is among the deeds of the Consulate at Tunis, all deeds which are sealed with the seal of the Bey have *ipso facto* force of law, and it often happens that the Bey, who is absolute Sovereign, makes Decrees which remove this inalienable character from the Habbous' lands.

The grounds of the protest of the Tunisian Government were therefore worthless, but this protest has been sufficient to prevent Hadj Ayad from paying, and thus Hamida Benayad has been deprived of the means of paying off M. Valensi, who in consequence has obtained judgment against him, and got the General Tahar ben Hassen to proceed in the ordinary and fantastical way already mentioned.

Si Hamida Benayad did bring an action against the purchaser, Hadj Ayad, to obtain payment, and the French Tribunal at Tunis made an order directing the purchaser to pay the purchase-money into Court; but the Court of Algiers, notwithstanding the proceedings of the Bey, made a Decree ordering Hadj Ayad to pay the purchase-money to the vendor, but this was only obtained after considerable lapse of time and enormous expense, and the Tunisian Government, notwithstanding this Decree, has informed Hadj Ayad, according to his account, that as he is a Tunisian subject, if he takes possession of the lands sold to him they will be confiscated, so that this unfortunate purchaser has allowed the vendor to take possession of and sell whatever property he has rather than pay the price of his purchase, though there is no doubt he has the means of paying, and the result of this is, that now there is not a Tunisian subject who will enter into any contract with Hamida Benayad on account of the difficulties which are necessarily raised in all matters connected with him.

The attention of your Lordship is called to another arbitrary act of the Tunisian Government.

Last year, whilst the General's brother, Sidi Assana, who has accompanied him to London, was absent from Tunis, the Director of Public Works of the Regency took possession without any notice, and without having demanded any authorization of a slip of land 2 metres wide and 200 metres long, being part of a property which belongs to Sidi Hassan, and which is situated near Tunis, at Sidi ben Said. The reason given for this was that the land was wanted to widen the road. The Agents of the Administration entered the property, pulled up the fruit trees, cut down the hedge, and left the portion of the land not wanted for the road open to all comers.

When Sidi Hassan requested the President of Tribunal on an interlocutory motion to name a valuer to assess the damage caused by these Agents, the President declared himself incompetent on a question of property between the Tunisian Administration and an English subject (Annex 8).

It is therefore clear that the Tunisian Government never misses an occasion of exercising its animosity against the family of Benayad.

Your Lordship has had before him details of the arbitration between the Tunisian Government and Sidi Hamida Benayad, and the litigation which took place before the French Tribunal, and your Lordship knows by the Report of Messrs. Mourilyan and Sewell Esq. solicitors he thoroughly understood Sidi Hamida was maintaining that the Tribunal ought not to enforce the Arbitrators' Award without examining whether the Arbitrators had given their Award according to the terms and within the limits of the deed by which they had been appointed.

General Benayad does not wish your Lordship to reconsider this matter as it is now before the Court of Algiers, but he wants to submit to your Lordship a fact which is not devoid of significance.

When it became necessary to put the affair on the Roll of the Court of Appeal of Algiers, the General's counsel informed him that the Administration had just decided that, contrary to the former practice, no affair coming from the Tribunal of Tunis could be put on the Roll without the registration duties being first paid, which duties are not paid within the Regency.

According to the former practice, the General would, in case he had obtained the annulment of the Judgment enforcing the Award, have been able to dispense with any payment of registration duties, and the General's counsel, M. Cherounet, in his letter of which a copy has been sent to the British Consul at Tunis, seems to think that the General must have done something in Paris with regard to these registration duties which have been the cause of this new measure.

Your Lordship will understand that certainly something has been done in Paris, but whatever has been done must have been done by the Tunisian Government and not by the General.

General Hamida is afraid of wearying your Lordship by the enumeration of all his grounds of complaint, but he is bound to call your attention to these further facts with regard to certain properties of his situated at Salmoun and at Zriba and in his action against Allala-Macadam, for although the regular competent Tribunals of the Regency have ordered the restitution of those lands illegally taken possession of by third parties, yet the General cannot notwithstanding all his requests and efforts, obtain the assistance of the authorities to enforce these Judgments; the Judgments therefore are practically useless.

All these troubles are the result of the animosity incurred by Si Hamida Benayad through his obtaining some forty years ago the protection of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and on account of his faithfulness to that Government.

Your Lordship is also acquainted with the lawsuit which took place at Constantinople between Hamida Benayad and his brothers of the one part, and the heirs of Mahmoud Benayad of the other part, the latter being French-protected subjects.

This matter was reported to the Foreign Office by Mr. Stavridès, Dragoman of the English Embassy, and that Report gave a full history of the case, and showed the active part played by the French Embassy at Constantinople.

The same parties had further litigation in France, and it is clear from the words used by the "Procureur de la République" in this case, that the only fault of Si Hamida Benayad and his brothers is their remaining faithfully attached to the English protection.

The French Government is doubtless ignorant of the acts of the inferior officials of the Tunisian Government, and a word from your Lordship would be sufficient to put an end to all these tyrannical acts, and to convince the French Government that Si Hamida Benayad's only wish is to live peacefully in Tunis, and that he is desirous of completely abstaining from all political agitation.

The General Benayad respectfully and sincerely trusts that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will not abandon him under the circumstances stated above at the present time, but will once more extend to him that protection which has always been generously granted, and will use its influence with the Tunisian Government to obtain full satisfaction for all the illegal and arbitrary acts above referred to.

(Signed) Le Général H BENAYAD.
(In Arabic.)

Annex 1.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1883.*
I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, forwarding two despatches from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Tunis, and explaining the objects of your present visit to London and the nature of the assistance which you solicit at the hands of Her Majesty's Government in your claims against that of Tunis.

I am, &c.

General Hamida Benayad,
Ling's Hotel, 4, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall

Annex 2.

Earl Granville to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1884.*
WITH reference to your despatch of the 31st ultimo, in which you state that General Sid Hamida Benayad intends to leave Tunis in consequence of the difficulties of his position, I have to observe that General Benayad still enjoys British protection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Annex 3.

(Traduction.)

(Cachet du Vice-Consulat de France à Nabel.)

Circulaire de Tahar-ben-Hassen, Gouverneur d'Elouten-el-Guebli, aux Ceïds de sa Province.

Le Louange à Dieu !

MESSIEURS nos Sous-Gouverneurs dans la circonscription d'Elouten-el-Guebli, que Dieu vous soit favorable ! que Dieu vous accorde protection et miséricorde !

Ensuite :

Il nous est parvenu un Jugement écrit en Français émanant du Tribunal Français en la capitale, daté du 23 Novembre, 1885, et contenant ce qui suit :

" M. Gabriel Valensi, banquier à Tunis, a donné mandat à son représentant, M. Proal, et cela en vertu du Jugement exécutoire rendu par le Tribunal Français à Tunis, au mois de Juillet 1885 dernier, en faveur du demandeur susdit contre Si Hamida-ben-Ayyad, et celui-ci en a été informé par une copie en due forme du Jugement susdit.

" En conséquence, je Soussigné, Louis Proal, huissier près le Tribunal susdit, déclare que j'ai informé M. le Général Ettâher Belhacen, Gouverneur d'Elouten-el-Guebli, demeurant à Tunis, parlant à la personne de sa servante, que le demandeur susdit est créancier de Abdeldjelil-ben-Ayyad par le fait que celui-ci est héritier dans la succession de son père, le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayyad, en vertu du Jugement susdit, pour une somme qui se monte en principal à 369,175 fr., sans les intérêts et les frais.

" Pour assurer paiement des sommes susdites le demandeur susdit fait, par le présent, saisie entre les mains de M. le Général de Brigade Ettâher Belhacen, Gouverneur d'Elouten-el-Guebli, de toutes sommes, créances, biens et objets de toute nature, qui peuvent se trouver entre ses mains, pour quelque cause et à quelque titre que ce soit, et appartenant au dit Sieur Abdeldjelil, Fils, de Hamida-ben-Ayyad susdit, propriétaire à Tunis, et notamment de la récolte de l'année courante ou du prix de cette récolte, la dite récolte existant actuellement ou bien pouvant se produire des fruits des jardins aux vergers d'oliviers sis à Soleyman et à Nuno, appartenant au dit Abdeldjelil, hypothéqués par le dit Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayyad en garantie de la créance du demandeur.

" Saisie et ainsi déclarée au Général susdit, et, s'il se dessaisit par mise aux enchères de la récolte susdite ou de son prix et de même de toute somme appartenant à Ben Ayyad et que ce ne soit pas au profit du demandeur, sans que et avant qu'il ait été donné autorisation à ce sujet ou qu'il ait été donné mainlevée de la saisie, il paiera deux fois outre la totalité des frais et dépens." &c

En vertu de ce qui précède, à l'arrivée de notre présente lettre, je vous prie de saisir immédiatement ce qui appartient au Sieur Abdeldjelil-ben-Ayyad et son père, le Sieur Hamida susdit, c'est-à-dire, tout ce qui leur appartient en fait de sommes, créances, biens et objets quels qu'ils soient, qui sont ou pourraient se trouver entre vos mains, pour quelque cause et à quelque titre que ce soit, particulièrement la récolte des oliviers, effectuée ou à effectuer pendant l'année courante, ou son prix, pour ce qui se trouve sur votre territoire.

Si quelqu'un d'entre vous se dessaisit de quelque chose de cela sans autorisation, ou sans levée de la saisie, il le paiera deux fois outre les frais et dépens.

J'insiste expressément auprès de vous pour que vous ne commettiez aucune négligence à ce sujet et que vous vous conformiez au Jugement précité sans y contrevenir.

Informez-nous de la réception de notre présente lettre, outre que chacun de vous devra en prendre copie.

Salut.

Écrit le 28 Safar, 1303 (5 Décembre, 1885), (mention en Français)

Certifiée conforme à la lettre originale notifiée à Nabel

Le Contrôleur Civil,

(Signé) TATCHEX.

Nabel, le 10 Décembre, 1885.

Annex 4.

28 Décembre, 1885.—Référé.—Ben Ayyad contre (1) Valensi, (2) Général Tahar.

Extrait des Minutes du Greffe du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis.

L'AN 1885, et le Lundi, 28 Décembre, à 9 heures du matin.

Nous, Fermé, Juge plus ancien, faisant fonctions de Président en remplacement de M. Pontois, en congé, statuant en matière de référé.

Assisté de M. Xavier-Jean-Pierre Lhomme, Greffier.

Arons rendu l'Ordonnance dont la teneur suit :

Entre les Sieurs Hamida-ben-Ayyad et Abdelgelil-ben-Ayyad, tous deux propriétaires, demeurant à Tunis, demandeurs comparant par M^r Bodoy, défenseur.

D'une part et premièrement,—

Le Sieur Gabriel Valensi, banquier, demeurant à Tunis.

Deuxièmement,—

Le Général Tahar-ben-Hassen, Gouverneur de l'Ouetan-el-Kobli, demeurant à

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Tunis, défenseur comparant par MM. Arnaud et Chodreavitz, leurs mandataires, d'autre part.

Faits :

Par exploit de Granjon, huissier, à Tunis, en date du 26 Décembre, 1885, les demandeurs ont fait assigner les défendeurs à comparaître le Lundi, 28 Décembre courant, à 9 heures du matin, devant M. le Président du Tribunal Civil de Tunis, tenant l'audience des référés en son Cabinet, au Palais de Justice, pour :

Attendu que sans droit aucun les Sieurs Valensi et Tahar-ben-Hassen se sont permis d'immobiliser toutes les récoltes pendantes sur les immeubles des requérants et même une récolte d'olives acquise d'un tiers pour la revendre par Abdelgelil-ben-Ayed.

Que les requérants se sont pourvus en justice pour obtenir réparation du préjudice que leur causent ces poursuites vexatoires.

Attendu que pour éviter une aggravation de ce préjudice il y a lieu de nommer un séquestre chargé de procéder à la vente des dites récoltes dans les formes habituelles et pour le compte de qui de droit.

Que cette vente doit être opérée dans le plus bref délai sous peine de voir périr sur pied les dites récoltes.

Par ces motifs et sous la réserve la plus expresse de tous les droits des parties, notamment de l'action en dommages-intérêts introduite par les requérants,

Voir renvoyer les parties à se pourvoir au principal et cependant dès à présent et par provision vu l'urgence :

Voir nommer un séquestre à l'effet de procéder immédiatement et pour le compte de qui de droit à la vente des récoltes pendantes sur les propriétés des requérants dans la forme habituelle ;

Et vu l'urgence, voir dire l'Ordonnance à intervenir exécutoire sur Minute,

Sous toutes réserves de droit et de fait

Dont acte—

Au jour, lieu, et heure indiqués les parties ont comparu

Sur quoi nous, Président,

Où les défendeurs des parties en leurs dires et explications.

Attendu que par exploit de Granjon, huissier, à Tunis, en date du 26 Décembre courant, les demandeurs ont fait donner assignation aux défendeurs à comparaître ou référé pour voir nommer un séquestre à l'effet de procéder immédiatement, et pour le compte de qui de droit, à la vente des récoltes pendantes sur les propriétés des demandeurs, saisies à la requête des défendeurs ;

Attendu que les défendeurs acceptent qu'un séquestre soit nommé lequel vendra les fruits saisis par l'huissier et de tenir les fonds à la disposition de qui de droit ;

Attendu que les demandeurs prétendent que d'autres biens ont été saisis par le Général Tahar-ben-Hassen en sa qualité et en vertu des pouvoirs qu'il a comme Gouverneur de l'Ouata-el-Kabli ;

Attendu que sur ce point s'agissant d'un acte de l'autorité Tunisienne le Juge des référés n'est pas compétent pour en connaître.

Par ces motifs

Au principal, renvoyons les parties à se pourvoir et par provision,

Nommons M. Deliot, Arbitre de Commerce, demeurant à Tunis, séquestre, dispense du serment du consentement des parties, lequel aura pour mission de procéder à la vente des olives saisis par l'huissier, et de tenir les fonds à la disposition de qui de droit, de dresser rapport de ses opérations.

Fait et prononcé les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

Et la Minute de la présente Ordonnance a été signée par MM. les Juges faisant fonctions de Président en remplacement de M. le Président Pontois, en congé régulier et Greffier.

Ainsi signé à la Minute

(Signé) PERME.

Le Juge le plus ancien faisant fonctions de Président en remplacement de M. le Président Pontois, en congé régulier,

(Signé) LHOMME, Greffier.

Pour expédition conforme.

Le Greffier,

(Signé) LHOMME

Annex 5.

Le 31 Juillet, 1886.—*Abdel-gelil-ben-Hamida-ben-Ayed contre (1) Gabriel Valensi, (2) Général Tahar ben Hassen, et d'autre part: Hamina-ben-Ayed contre (1) Gabriel Valensi, (2) Général Tahar-ben-Hassen.*

Extrait des Minutes du Greffe du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis

L'AN 1886, et le 31 Juillet, à 8 heures du matin.

Le Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis, jugeant en matière civile, dans son audience publique tenue au lieu ordinaire de ses séances sis au Palais de Justice de la dite ville, ancien Palais Khredine, Rue de la Hafsia.

A rendu le Jugement dont la teneur suit.

Entre le Sieur Abdel Gelil-ben-Hamida-ben-Ayed, propriétaire, demeurant à Tunis, demandeur comparant par M^r Bodoy.

D'autre part et premièrement,—

Le Sieur Gabriel Valensi, banquier, demeurant à Tunis, défendeur comparant par M^r Brulat ;

D'autre part et deuxièmement,—

Le Sieur Général Tahar-ben-Hassen, Gouverneur de l'Ouata-el-Kabli, défendeur, demeurant à Tunis, comparant par M^r Gueydan.

De troisième part et encore,—

Entre le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, propriétaire, demeurant à Tunis, demandeur comparant par M^r Bodoy ;

D'une part et premièrement,—

Le Sieur Gabriel Valensi, banquier susnommé, défendeur comparant par M^r Brulat ;

D'autre part et deuxièmement,—

Le Général Tahar-ben-Hassen, sus qualifié défendeur comparant par M^r Gueydan ;

De trois ème part, le Tribunal,—

Où les défendeurs des parties en leurs dires, explications, et conclusions.

Le Ministère Public entendu après en avoir délibéré conformément à la loi.

Attendu que par exploit de l'huissier Granjon, en date des 12 et 15 Décembre, 1885, le Sieur Abdel Gelil-ben-Hamida-ben-Ayed a assigné le Sieur Gabriel Valensi, banquier, et le Gouverneur de l'Ouata el Kabli, le Général Tahar-ben-Hassen, devant le Tribunal de Tunis.

Pour :

S'entendre condamner à 300,000 fr. de dommages-intérêts en raison d'une saisie-arrest pratiquée indûment à l'encontre du demandeur par le Sieur Gabriel Valensi entre les mains du Général Tahar-ben-Hassen.

Attendu que par un exploit du même huissier aux dates ci-dessus le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, père d'Abdelgelil, a formé contre les mêmes défendeurs une demande identique à la précédente,

Attendu qu'il existe entre ces deux Instances une connexité étroite et qu'il y a lieu pour le Tribunal d'en ordonner la jonction ;

Attendu que par Acte du 19 Octobre, 1885, le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed a emprunté une somme de 105,997 fr. au Sieur Gabriel Valensi, et que pour garantir le remboursement de cette somme il lui remit en gage différents titres de propriété appartenant à son fils Abdel Gelil,

Attendu que cette constitution de gage a eu lieu avec le consentement d'Abdel Gelil, mais que ce dernier ne s'est pas porté caution de son père,

Que par conséquent l'acte d'emprunt ne le constituant pas débiteur du Sieur Gabriel Valensi,

Que cet acte conférant à celui-ci un seul droit contre Abdel Gelil, celui de faire saisir et vendre les immeubles engagés par ce dernier si la somme dont ces immeubles garantissaient la restitution n'était pas payée à son échéance.

Attendu que le 1^{er} Juillet, 1885, le Sieur Gabriel Valensi a obtenu du Tribunal de Tunis un Jugement auquel le Sieur Abdel Gelil est demeuré étranger et qui condamnait le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed au paiement d'une somme de 368,475 fr., reliquat de l'emprunt dont il vient d'être parlé ;

Attendu qu'en vertu de ce Jugement le Sieur Gabriel Valensi a par exploit de l'huissier Proal, en date du 23 Novembre, 1885, formé opposition et saisie-arrest entre les mains du Général Tahar-ben-Hassen, Gouverneur de l'Ouata-el-Kabli sur toutes

les sommes, titres, valeurs et objets mobiliers quelconques que ce fonctionnaire pourrait devoir pour quelque cause que ce fût au Sieur Abdel Gelil;

Attendu que le Sieur Gabriel Valensi n'étant pas le créancier du Sieur Abdel Gelil pouvait saisir contre ce dernier d'autres biens que ceux engagés par lui en garantie de la dette de son père;

Attendu qu'il est dit dans la copie de l'Exploit du 2 Novembre, 1885, remise au Général Tahar-ben-Hassan, que le Sieur Abdel Gelil est tenu de la dette comme héritier et successeur de son père Hamida-ben-Ayed;

Attendu cependant que ce dernier était à cette époque et se trouve encore aujourd'hui vivant et qu'une semblable énonciation prouve tout au moins une lourde négligence chez le rédacteur de cet Acte;

Attendu qu'il y a lieu de remarquer en outre que la même mention qui se trouvait primitivement sur l'acte parait y avoir été effacée après coup au moyen d'une nature non approuvée;

Attendu que cette mention inexacte devant avoir pour résultat d'étendre la saisie à tous les biens de Hamida-ben-Ayed et de son fils Abdel Gelil;

Attendu, en effet, qu'à la suite de l'Acte du 23 Novembre, 1885, le Gouverneur de l'Ouantan-el-Kabli a, par une Circulaire en date du 5 Décembre de la même année, invité les fonctionnaires placés sous ses ordres à saisir tous les biens situés dans sa circonscription, et appartenant aux Sieurs Abdel Gelil et Hamida-ben-Ayed, et notamment la récolte de leurs oliviers;

Attendu, il est vrai, qu'à la suite des protestations des demandeurs, le Sieur Gabriel Valensi a, par exploit de l'huissier Froal, en date du 11 Décembre, 1885, fait connaître au Général Tahar-ben-Hassan, que la saisie ne devait porter que sur les récoltes des immeubles hypothéqués en garantie de sa créance.

Mais, attendu que ce second acte, qui n'est intervenu que dix-huit jours après le premier, est postérieur aux ordres donnés par le Gouverneur de l'Ouantan-el-Kabli;

Attendu que le Sieur Gabriel Valensi doit être déclaré responsable des irrégularités contenues dans l'Article du 23 Novembre, 1885, et du préjudice qui a pu en être la conséquence;

Attendu, en ce qui concerne le Général Tahar-ben-Hassan, qu'il s'est conformé aux usages du pays;

Que le fonctionnaire Tunisien, ignorant la procédure Française de l'Acte du 23 Novembre, 1885, et que les termes mêmes de cet Acte étaient de nature à l'induire en erreur;

Attendu qu'il n'apparaît pas qu'un entente frauduleuse ait existé entre lui et le Sieur Gabriel Valensi, ni qu'aucune faute personnelle lui soit imputable;

Qu'il y ordonne lieu de le mettre hors de cause.

En ce qui concerne l'étendue du dommage;

Attendu qu'il n'est pas établi que les irrégularités et les mentions inexactes contenues dans l'Acte du 23 Novembre, 1885, aient causé un préjudice appréciable au Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed,

Que, du reste, étant depuis longtemps en retard pour rembourser au Sieur Gabriel Valensi une somme importante, et n'ayant payé cette dette que plus tard à la suite de saisies, et en vertu d'un commandement, il doit s'imputer à lui-même envers le Sieur Gabriel Valensi une faute qui doit faire rejeter sa demande de dommages-intérêts ou faire réduire tout au moins le montant de ces dommages-intérêts et dépens de la présente instance;

Attendu, au contraire, qu'il y a lieu d'admettre le Sieur Abdel Gelil à prouver, conformément aux conclusions subsidiaires,

Premièrement: Que suite de l'Acte du 23 Novembre, 1885, la saisie a porté sur des biens que lui appartiennent en propre, et qu'il n'avait pas engagés au Sieur Gabriel Valensi

Deuxièmement: Que cette extension donnée à la saisie lui a causé un préjudice.

Attendu que cette double preuve doit être faite au moyen d'une expertise,

Attendu, enfin, que l'Instance ayant pour cause un acte irrégulier imputable au Sieur Gabriel Valensi, ou à son mandataire, il y a lieu de le condamner aux dépens;

Attendu qu'il y a lieu de rejeter comme n'étant pas suffisamment justifiées pour le surplus les conclusions respectives des parties;

Par ces motifs

Le Tribunal ordonne la jonction des deux Instances dirigées par le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed et par le Sieur Abdel Gelil-ben-Ayed contre le Sieur Valensi et le Général Tahar-ben-Hassan, et statuant par un seul et même Jugement,

Renvoie le Général Tahar-ben-Hassan des fins des deux demandes;

Déclare le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed mal fondé dans sa demande de 300,000 fr. de dommages-intérêts contre le Sieur Gabriel Valensi, et dit que les dépens de la présente instance lui seront alloués pour tous dommages;

Dit qu'à défaut des parties de s'entendre sur le choix d'autres experts dans les trois jours de la signification du présent Jugement, les Sieurs Toex, Rilan, et Camoui sont désignés comme experts à l'effet de rechercher—

Premièrement: Si, par suite de l'Acte du 23 Novembre, 1885, la saisie a porté sur des biens appartenant personnellement au Sieur Abdel Gelil-ben-Hamida-ben-Ayed, et qu'il ne sont pas engagés au Sieur Gabriel Valensi

Deuxièmement: Quel a été le préjudice causé au Sieur Abdel Gelil-ben-Hamida-ben-Ayed par suite de l'extension donnée à cette saisie?

Désigne M. Lemarchand, Juge-Suppléant, pour recevoir le serment des experts;

Dit que ce Magistrat pourra être remplacé par Ordonnance de M. le Président

Condamne le Sieur Gabriel Valensi aux dépens liquidés à en ce [sic] non compris le coût de ce Jugement et de ses suites.

Fait et prononcé les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

Où siégeaient M. Fabry, Juge, faisant fonctions de Président en remplacement de M. Gessroy, empêché, et de MM. Fermé et Parisot, Juges en congé.

Maisonnave et Lemarchand, Juges-Suppléants.

En présence de M. Bessu, Substitut du Procureur de la République.

Assisté de M. Lhomme, Greffier.

Et la Minute du présent Jugement a été signée par le Juge faisant fonctions de Président et par le Greffier.

(Signé)

TABRY, Président.

LHOMME, Greffier.

Pour expédition conforme:

Le Greffier,

(Signé) LHOMME.

Annex 8.

Le 7 Juin, 1886.—Hamida-ben-Ayed (M^r Pietri) contre Alfred Nuée (M^r Daconaguerre).
Référé.

Extrait des Minutes du Greffe du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis.

République Française.

Au nom du peuple Français.

L'an 1886, et le 7 Juin, à 9 heures du matin.

Nous, Edouard Gessroy, Président du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis.

En notre Cabinet sis au Palais de Justice de la dite ville, ancien Palais Khérédine, Rue de la Hafsia, à Tunis.

Assisté de M. Xavier-Jean-Pierre Lhomme, Greffier.

Avons rendu l'Ordonnance de Référé dont la teneur suit:

Entre le Général Hamida-ben-Ayed, propriétaire, demeurant à Tunis, demandeur comparant par M^r Pietri, défenseur, d'une part,

Et le Sieur Alfred Nuée, limonadier, demeurant à Tunis, défendeur comparant par M^r Ferdinand Daconaguerre, avocat, d'autre part;

Il est

Par exploit de M^r François Soulet, huissier, à Tunis, en date du 5 Juin, 1886, le demandeur a fait donner assignation au défendeur à comparaitre le Lundi, 7 Juin, 1886, par-devant M. le Président du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis à l'audience des référés qu'il donnera ce jour au Palais de Justice, ancien Palais Khérédine, à 9 heures du matin.

Pour

Attendu que Ben Ayed est propriétaire de terrain sis le long de la Rue Manoutra, à Tunis, derrière la Régie des Tabacs,

Attendu que Nuée a fait des clôtures sur le dit terrain sans l'autorisation du

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(i)

requérant, bien qu'il fut en possession de ce terrain, ainsi que l'a décidé un Jugement rendu par M. le Juge de Paix de Tunis le 17 Mai, 1884.

En conséquence tous droits réservés au fond,

Faire défense à Nuée de continuer les travaux dont s'agit, avant qu'il ait été statué sur l'appel du dit Jugement du 17 Mai, 1884.

Autoriser Ben Ayed à démolir les clôtures faites par le dit Nuée sur le terrain en question.

Tout au moins lui donner acte des réserves qu'il fait au sujet de ces travaux afin qu'il ne puisse avoir prise de possession de la part de Nuée.

Sous toutes réserves.

Aux jour, lieu, et heure indiqués les parties par leurs mandataires ont comparu; ils ont été entendus en leurs dires, explications, et conclusions.

Sur quoi nous, Président,

Où les défenseurs des parties en leurs dires et explications;

Attendu que par exploit de Soulet, huissier, à Tunis, en date du 5 Juin courant, le demandeur a fait donner citations au défendeur à comparaitre en référé.

Pour

Voir faire défense à Nuée de continuer les travaux de clôture sur un terrain actuellement en litige entre les parties, et voir autoriser le demandeur à faire démolir les dits travaux.

Attendu que le Juge du référé n'est pas compétent pour apprécier une question de propriété; que c'est une question qui concerne le fond;

Attendu que Nuée demande acte que c'est pour obéir aux ordres de la Municipalité qu'il a édifié la clôture en bois, objet du litige.

Par ces motifs :

Au principal renvoyons les parties à se pourvoir et par provision

Disons n'y avoir lieu à référé.

Donnons acte à Alfred Nuée de son dire

Fait et prononcé les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

Et la Minute de la présente Ordonnance de Référé a été signée par M. le Président du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis, et par M. le Greffier du dit Tribunal.

Ainsi signé à la Minute.

Edmond Geoffroy, Président du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis.

Xavier Lhomme, Greffier

En conséquence, le Président de la République mande et ordonne—

A tous huissiers sur ce requis de mettre la présente Ordonnance de Référé en exécution,

Aux Procureurs-Généraux et aux Procureurs de la République près les Tribunaux de Première Instance d'y tenir la main,

A tous Commandants et à tous officiers de la force publique de prêter main-forte lorsqu'ils en seront légalement requis.

Pour grosse conforme :

Le Greffier,

(Signé) Lhomme.

(Seal of Tribunal of First Instance of Tunis.)

Quatre mots rayés nuls.—Lhomme.

Annex 7.

Protestation par Son Altesse Ali-ben-Hassein, Bey de Tunis, contre Si Hamida-ben-Ayed.

Mr. Hamida-ben-Ayed

L'AN 1884, et le 8 Novembre.

A la requête de Son Altesse Sidi Ali-ben-Hassein, Bey de Tunis, demeurant en son Palais de la Marsa, près Tunis, lequel fait élection de domicile en mon étude, J'ai, François Soulet, huissier près le Tribunal Civil de Tunis, demeurant en cette ville soussigné,

Déclare et signifie au Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, propriétaire, demeurant à Tunis, Rue Bab-el-Zira, protégé Anglais, en son dit domicile, ou étant et parlant à son concierge,

Que mon requérant vient d'apprendre que le dit Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, se disant propriétaire des enclaves désignées sous le nom d'enclaves Ain Chillon, "anchur" Esseriba, enclur Erremil, situées sur les territoires de Béja A Béja, prétend avoir vendu ces enclaves au Sieur Chérif E. Hadji Ched, demeurant à Medjrez-el-Beh (Tunisie), suivant acte dressé à la date des deuxième et dernière décades du mois de Kaada, 1361 (correspondant aux décades comprises du 1^{er} au 10 Septembre et du 10 au 20 Septembre, 1884), que mon requérant est, au contraire, le vrai propriétaire des dits enclaves, qui font partie des biens constitués "habous" par feu son Altesse Sidi Ali Bey, et qu'il est actuellement et depuis le mois de Février dernier en existence devant le Tribunal du Chédra à Tunis, qu'il a saisi de sa demande en revendication des immeubles "habous" de Sidi Ali Bey, dont la jouissance a été usurpée depuis peu d'années par le Sieur Mustapha-ben-Esmail,

Que tout acte qui a pu être fait relativement aux dits immeubles à quelque titre que ce soit par le Sieur Mustapha-ben-Esmail au profit du Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, ou au profit de toute autre personne est nul radicalement, et ne saurait avoir aucun effet, attendu que lors même que le Sieur Mustapha-ben-Esmail se prétendrait qu'il a acquis à quelque titre que ce soit de feu son Altesse Mohammed-es-Sadok les biens "habous" de Sidi Ali Bey, sans entrer ici dans l'examen des causes de nullité sur la forme des actes d'une telle acquisition, il suffit à mon requérant de faire observer que feu son Altesse Mohammed-es-Sadok n'avait ni la capacité ni le pouvoir d'aliéner ces biens, et de leur faire perdre le caractère d'inaliénabilité qui les affecte essentiellement.

Que, d'ailleurs, la justice et l'exactitude de la revendication et des moyens invoqués par mon requérant ont été reconnus par le Sieur Mustapha-ben-Esmail lui-même, et cela même postérieurement au décès de son Altesse Mohammed-es-Sadok à diverses reprises, et dans des documents écrits, que mon requérant tient à la disposition de la justice;

Qu'en conséquence, mon requérant proteste en la réserve la plus expresse de tous ses droits contre la prétention du Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed à la propriété des enclaves ci-dessus indiquées, et de tous autres qu'il peut détenir au même titre pour être les dits droits de mon requérant exercés comme de droit.

Qu'il tiendra pour nul et nul effet le dit acte de vente fait par le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed au Sieur Chérif E. Hadji Ayed, de sorte qu'il tient pour nul tout acte fait par Mustapha-ben-Esmail au profit du Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, ou de toutes autres personnes relativement aux dits immeubles, se réservant même de rechercher si le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayed, s'il y a eu de bonne foi quand il a acquis du Sieur Mustapha-ben-Esmail les détentions vicieuses des dits enclaves,

Attendu que depuis le commencement même de la prise de possession indirecte par Mustapha-ben-Esmail des immeubles "habous" de Sidi Ali Bey, il est de notoriété publique que sa possession est vicieuse, et que les réclamations adressées par mon requérant au dit Mustapha-ben-Esmail depuis le lendemain même du décès de son Altesse Mohammed-es-Sadok Bey sont également connues de tous depuis leur commencement

Sous toutes réserves dont acte

(Signé)

Annex 8.

Hamida-ben-Ayed contre Grand.

Extrait des Minutes du Greffe du Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis.

République Française.

Au nom du peuple Français.

L'an 1885, et le 31 Août, à 9 heures de matin.

Nous, Léon Parisot, Juge au Tribunal Civil de Première Instance de Tunis, faisant fonction de Président en remplacement de M. le Président régulièrement empêché, En notre Cabinet, sis au Palais de Justice,

Assisté de M. Xavier-Jean-Pierre Lhomme, Greffier,

Avoir rendu l'Ordonnance dont la teneur suit :

Entre le Sieur Hassana-ben-Ayed, propriétaire, demeurant à Tunis, demandeur, comparissant par M. Michellat, clerc de M^r Pietri, défenseur, d'une part ;
Et le Sieur Grand, en sa qualité de Directeur-Général des Travaux de la Régence de Tunis, demeurant en cette dite ville, défendeur comparissant par M. Chudorouitz, clerc de M^r Guseydan, avocat défendeur, d'autre part ;

Fait :

Par exploit de François Soulet, huissier près les Tribunaux de Tunis, y demeurant en date du 23 Août, le demandeur a fait assigner le défendeur à comparaître le Lundi, 24 Août, 1885, à 9 heures du matin, par-devant M. le Président du Tribunal Civil de Tunis, tenant l'audience des référés en son Cabinet, sis au Palais de Justice, ancien Palais Khérédine.

Pour :

Attendu que le requérant possède à Sidi Bou Said, Tunisie, une propriété, et que sans droit aucun ni aux préalables l'Administration des Ponts et Chaussées s'est permise de lui prendre du terrain sur une longueur de 200 mètres environ sur 3 mètres de large pour faire un chemin ; que de plus, on a attaché des arbres fruitiers et une haie de plantes de figuier de Barbarie qui bordaient sa propriété ;

Attendu que par ce fait la dite Administration a causé au requérant un préjudice considérable, et qu'à ce titre il lui est dû de justes dommages-intérêts.

Par ces motifs :

Au principal, renvoyer les parties à ce pouvoir,

Et cependant dès à présent,

Voir nommer un expert qui aura pour mission de visiter les lieux, de déterminer la quantité de terrain prise par l'Administration des Ponts et Chaussées pour l'établissement d'un chemin à Sidi Bou Said, en évaluer le prix, le dommage causé, et enfin s'entourer de tous renseignements nécessaires ; dresser du tout un Rapport pour ensuite du dit Rapport être par les parties conclu et par le Tribunal statué à qui de droit.

Sous toutes réserves.

Aux jour, lieu, et heure indiqués les parties ont comparu.

Sur quoi, nous, Président,

Où les mandataires des parties en leurs dires et explications ;

Attendu que par exploit de Soulet, huissier, à Tunis, en date du 22 Août, 1885, le demandeur a fait citer le défendeur en référé.

Pour :

Voir nommer un expert, lequel aura pour mission de visiter les lieux, de déterminer la quantité de terrain prise par l'Administration des Ponts et Chaussées pour l'établissement d'un chemin de Sidi Bou Said, en évaluer le prix du dommage causé, et enfin s'entourer de tous renseignements nécessaires, de tout quoi dressera Rapport de ses opérations pour être ultérieurement statué ce que de droit.

Attendu que l'affaire soulève une question de propriété, et que les Tribunaux Français sont incompétents pour en connaître,

Cette question étant pendante entre une Administration Tunisienne et un sujet ou protégé Anglais.

Par ces motifs :

Nous, Juge, faisant fonctions de Président,

Au principal, renvoyons les parties à ce pouvoir,

Et cependant dès à présent et par provision,

Nous déclarons incompétent.

Fait et prononcé les jours, mois, et an que dessus.

Et la Minute de la présente Ordonnance a été signée par M. le Juge faisant fonctions de Président en remplacement de M. Pontois régulièrement empêché, et par le Greffier.

Ainsi signé à la Minute.

Parisot, Président ; Lhomme, Greffier.

En cause guerre [sic] le Président de la République Française mande et ordonne.

A tous huissiers sur ce requis de mettre la présente Ordonnance en exécution.

Aux Procureurs-Généraux et aux Procureurs de la République près les Tribunaux de Première Instance d'y tenir la main.

A tous Commandants et à tous officiers de la force publique de prêter main-forte lorsqu'ils en seront légalement requis.

Pour grosse conforme

Le Commis-Greffier,

(Signé) JACQUEMIN.

No. 20.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 50. Confidential)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 16, 1886.

With reference to past correspondence regarding French designs on this country, and to the despatches marked in the margin,* respecting the late disturbances on the Algerian frontier, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have received a confidential letter from Cid Bukek containing the following information—

The question of the rectification of the Algerian frontier is not being pressed upon the Sultan by the French Government, the late disturbances at Wejda being put forward as the grounds for their demand.

The Sultan has been informed that these disturbances amongst the Moorish frontier tribes are a constant source of danger to Algeria, and that the French Government consider that they would be justified in marching troops across the frontier to quell such disturbances.

It is urged also that the Sultan should return to Fez, and send a strong force to Wejda to keep the tribes in subjection.

M. Féraud has written to the Court that as soon as the Sultan returns from Soos to the city of Morocco he will visit the Court to discuss this question with His Majesty.

As the information hitherto imparted by Cid Bukek has generally been verified by subsequent events, I am inclined to attach some importance to the present communication, more especially as other circumstances appear to indicate that the French Government are still keeping steadily in view their project of rectifying their frontier at the expense of Morocco.

The recent visit of the Sherreef of Wazan to Wejda, undertaken at the request of the French Government without communication with the Sultan, which caused considerable displeasure to His Sherreef and also his retinue, Tangier included through the Rect district, are generally supposed to have had in view the furtherance of French designs.

The object of the French Government has of late been to recover for the Sherreef the position he formerly held, and which he lost in great measure when he passed himself under French protector about two and a-half years ago. His return to Tangier from Algeria was made the occasion of a great demonstration on the part of his followers, and shortly after his arrival his two sons came from Wazan to pay their respects, accompanied by a large armed retinue, who remained here some days celebrating the Sherreef's return with great parade and ostentation. No such demonstrations have been organized by his followers on his return from former expeditions, and it can only be supposed that their object on the present occasion was to impress the people and to regain his prestige.

On receipt of Cid Bukek's letter I thought it advisable to address a confidential letter to the Vizier Cid El M'Fadl Gharneet, and repeat the warning given by Sir J. Drummond Hay on former occasions, when the question of the Algerian frontier had been brought forward by the French Government.

I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of this letter, in which I warn Cid El M'Fadl Gharneet of the danger that would ensue to Morocco should the Sultan accede to the demands that may be put forward for the cession of Wejda or other territory on the Algerian frontier, but at the same time I urge that the Sultan should seek to meet the wishes of the French Government in all matters not affecting the integrity and independence of this country, and to maintain the most friendly

* To Sir J. Drummond Hay, Nos. 8, 10, 12, 13, and 23, April 16, 21, 30, May 26, and June 15, Sir J. Drummond Hay, Nos. 17 and 29, April 19 and June 2, 1886.

† See No. 21 of April 29, 1886.

‡ See No. 7 of January 30, 1884.

§ See No. 19 of May 14, 1882.

relations with M. Féraud and the French Government. I further suggest that the Sultan should station at Wejda a strong force under the command of an able and trustworthy officer, in whom His Majesty could repose absolute confidence, and that this officer should be instructed to maintain tranquillity amongst the Moorish tribes near the frontier, and immediately suppress the slightest outbreak, but at the same time to carefully avoid coming into collision with the French troops or frontier tribes. I also express my readiness, should the Sultan at any time stand in need of friendly advice, to forward to Her Majesty's Government any communication His Majesty may be pleased to make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Mr. White to the Vizier Cid M'Fadl Gharneet.

(Translation.)

(Secret.)

(After compliments.)

August 14, 1886 (Kadde 13, 1303)

A RUMOUR has reached Tangier that the French Government are urging the Sultan to consent to the extension of the Algerian frontier to the Mouloula, or at any rate that the Wejda district be ceded to France; and it is said that the French Minister is about to visit the Court in order to communicate personally with His Shereefian Majesty, and endeavour to persuade His Majesty to accede to the wishes of the French Government. I am told that the reason given for their desire to extend the frontier is the inconvenience and danger occasioned by the turbulence of the tribes near Wejda. It is further stated that the French Government have given notice to the Sultan that unless His Majesty returns to Fez and dispatches an expedition to reduce to order the tribes near Wejda, French troops may be sent from Algeria into Moorish territory with that object.

I am not aware what truth there may be in these rumours, but as one who has the interests of the Sultan at heart, and who at present represents the British Government, which has ever been desirous of maintaining the integrity of these dominions and the independence of His Shereefian Majesty, I deem it my duty to put His Majesty on his guard, and to submit the following observations and counsels for His Majesty's consideration.

There can be no doubt that the French Government has for many years sought to extend its territories at the expense of the Sultan, and that the desire of the French people is and has long been to gain possession of all the country from Egypt to the Atlantic. The French newspapers make no secret of this, and frequently contain articles setting forth these views.

Tunis has already been taken possession of by France, as you are aware, and now it is to Morocco and Tripoli that they turn their eyes. I do not suppose that the French Government have any intention of immediately carrying out these ambitious schemes, but it is not unlikely that they may at present seek to take a step in this direction by advancing their frontier as far as the River Mouloula, thus embracing Wejda, where they would establish a strong military centre, from which, when the time arrives, a dash might be made at Fez.

Should any proposition of this nature have been made by the French Government, or be made by the French Minister when he visits the Court, I would recommend that the Sultan, in friendly but firm language, decline to entertain it; but, at the same time, His Shereefian Majesty should readily accede to any request that may be made that a strong force be sent to quiet the tribes near the Algerian frontier; indeed, it would be expedient that His Majesty should always keep such a force in that district, under an able and prudent commander in whom His Majesty can repose confidence. Such commander should have orders to immediately repress the slightest disturbance amongst the Moorish tribes near the frontier, and, at the same time, to be very careful to avoid coming into collision with the troops or tribes on Algerian territory, and to maintain friendly relations with the French officials.

This commander, as I stated above, should be a man in whom His Majesty can repose absolute confidence.

The French Minister, M. Féraud, has, since his arrival in this country, shown himself amicably disposed and anxious to avoid giving rise to vexatious questions, such as were raised by his predecessor. It is very important that the Sultan and the Moorish

officials should reciprocate this disposition, and should be very careful to maintain the most friendly relations with him, and that His Majesty, whilst resisting in a friendly manner all attempts to obtain a concession of territory, should be ready to meet his wishes in all matters where the integrity and independence of these dominions are not concerned.

In conclusion, I may state that should any propositions of the above-mentioned nature be made by the French Minister, and His Shereefian Majesty wish for friendly advice, I shall be most happy to communicate to Her Majesty's Government and confidential information that His Majesty may cause to be imparted to me on the subject.

Peace!

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 21.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 51)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 17, 1886.

WITH reference to Sir John Drummond Hay's despatch No. 28 of the 1st June,* inclosing translation of a letter he had addressed the Vizier Gharneet, requesting his Excellency to convey to the Sultan the expression of his regret at being prevented from taking leave in person of His Majesty, and bidding farewell to that Minister and other officials at the Shereefian Court, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of the reply addressed by Cid El M Faddal Gharneet to Sir J. Drummond Hay, which, though dated the 3rd ultimo, only reached this Legation a few days since.

The Vizier expresses, by command of the Sultan, the deep regret His Shereefian Majesty feels at the termination of Sir J. Drummond Hay's service in this country, and testifies to the high esteem in which he has always been held by the Sultan and by His Majesty's predecessors. His Excellency further states that it will afford His Shereefian Majesty much pleasure to receive him should he be authorized to visit the Shereefian Court to take leave of His Majesty in person.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE

Inclosure in No. 21.

The Vizier Gharneet to Sir J. Drummond Hay on his departure.

(Translation.)

Praise be to God!

THE beloved and judicious counsellor, the Chevalier who strives to promote good relations between the two friendly Sovereigns, the Minister of the exalted Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India in the dominions of Morocco. We continue to make inquiries regarding you and regarding your condition, and we trust that you may always be prosperous; which premised, we have received your letter in which you inform us that your term of service being completed, you are about to quit this country, and you express your regret that you are unable to have an audience of His Majesty, exalted by God, in order to take leave of His Shereefian Majesty, and express your gratitude for the marks of good-will, confidence, and friendship that His Majesty has shown towards you; and you observe that you have served for forty years in these happy dominions, and that our Lord and Master, the Grand sire of our present Lord and Master (assisted by God), and our Master the Sire of His Majesty (may God sanctify them both) bestowed on you their confidence, friendship, and trust, and that our Lord and Master (may God assist him!) has likewise held you in the same regard, and that the friendship between the two Governments has remained in the same state as formerly, it has neither altered nor been disturbed, and that you will never grow weak in your devotion to the welfare of His Majesty and of his subjects, for you are convinced of the friendship of His Majesty and of his subjects towards you. You request us also to bid farewell, in your name, to the Viziers and chief officers of the Shereefian Court, whom you name, and you further state that, should God prolong your life, you will return to this country after the lapse of a year, and will reside here for a time during the winter months, and that,

* Not printed

should it meet with Her Majesty's approval, and your Government grant its consent, you would then visit the Court in a private capacity with the view of taking leave, in person, of His Majesty, exalted by God.

I have laid your letter before our Lord the Sultan, and His Majesty has taken into consideration all you state in it, and [may God render him powerful] has commanded me to reply to it, and to state that your departure from these blessed dominions causes great grief and sorrow, as it was sure to do, for you are one of the wise and judicious persons of your illustrious Government, who have from ancient times mediated between them and the Sherrefian Government with friendship, sincerity, and consideration, as is known to all, and about which there can be no dispute, and which at all times has been continuously renewed, proved, and confirmed by the strength and power of God. And the fact that your exalted Queen selected a sagacious person like yourself, of excellent social qualities, pleasant to have relations with, and seeking to do good, for service in this country for so long a time, is a proof of her sincere friendship and of her desire to promote good feeling and to strengthen the bonds of union between the two friendly Sovereigns, and is a sign whereby is known Her Majesty's extreme politeness, wisdom, and judgment, for a person gives proof of his judgment and wisdom by one of these things, viz., his envoy, his letter, or his present. His Sherrefian Majesty [may God render him powerful] has commanded me to convey the expression of his sincere thanks and best acknowledgments to your beloved Queen, and to yourself also, O friend, and invokes on Her Majesty an increase of power, greatness, dignity, and grandeur, and on you blessings on yourself, and on your family, and on your country, and on all your possessions.

I am to add, that what you state regarding the confidence that is reposed in you by our Lord and Master His Majesty's grace, and by our Lord and Master, His Majesty's Sire [may God sanctify them], is true and well known to every one, and His Sherrefian Majesty [may God render him powerful] likewise reposes confidence in you, and regards you as a sincere friend; and that your remark that the friendship between the two Governments has undergone no change during the term of your office is also true, for the friendship between the two Governments is the result of your success, verifying the opinion held of you by your Government, the soundness of their judgment, and the accuracy of their discernment regarding yourself, and it (the friendship) has through your assistance increased in purity, constancy, and growth in your virtuous Government in love and affection in word and deed. At this time, O friend, that you will not grow weak in your devotion to His Majesty and to his subjects, this is in accordance with the opinion formed of you, and is what was confidently expected of you, for such is the disposition of persons of a friendly and affectionate character, whether they be near or far.

I have taken leave, in your name, of the Viziers and officers of the Sherrefian Court whom you mentioned, and they all reciprocated your affection and gave expression to it, and praised you, and invoked (blessings) on you, and were not sparing in their expressions of sorrow and grief at your departure, and recited the lines of the ancient poet—

'Though severed in body we suffer no hurt, for our hearts are united, welded by pure love.'

With regard to your statement that 'God prolongs your life, and if it is agreeable to His Sherrefian Majesty you will visit the Sherrefian Court [exalted by God], and that, should your Government approve, you would come with the object you mention, our Lord [may God make him glorious!] has commanded me to reply that he prays that your life may be prolonged by the power of God, and that you may continue in happiness and health, leading an agreeable life; and if your Government sanction your coming with this object you are welcome, and such sanction will be agreeable to His Majesty [may God assist him!], for it (your Government) desires for you and for His Majesty only what is good, and you seek only to promote the welfare of them both; and how, indeed, could your Government refuse to grant its sanction for what is beneficial? Our friendship for you is everlasting, and its freshness will never fade, day or night.

May God be gracious on the leave-taking, and not forbid the meeting.

Finished the last day of Ramadan, 1303 (3rd July, 1886)

(Signed) MOHD. EL M'FADDAL BEN MOHD. GARNEET.

General Brackenbury to Sir J. Parncefoote.—(Received August 25.)

Dear Sir Julian,

18, Queen Anne's Gate, August 25, 1886.

I SEND this on the off chance of its having escaped notice.

Kindly return.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) H. BRACKENBURY.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Translated extract from "Le Temps" of August 21, 1886.

THE correspondent of "Le Temps," writing from Tangier on the 14th August, says:—

"The Sultan of Morocco recently opened to commerce the little port of Assaka, at the mouth of the River Noon, on the south-west coast of Morocco, in consequence of solicitations from Berlin, and on the necessary funds for the improvement of the port being furnished from the same source."

He also adds that a Tangier journal recently alluded to the probable advent of German officers to act as instructors in place of French officers.

The Sultan of Morocco has just been asserting his authority in the southern provinces of Soos and Noon, and also punishing the tribes of the Haouara, &c.; he is said to have stayed a few days at Assaka and selected a site for a new fort there.

Verbal Communication made to the Earl of Idlesleigh by M. Catalani, August 25, 1886.

(Private and Confidential.)

REPORTS have reached the Italian Government conveying that an active propaganda is made by French Agents in Morocco, aided by the Sherref of Wazan, in order to put that country under French Protectorate. It is alleged that the French Minister, who, it is said, belongs to the Mussulman denomination of the Esauigianin, fosters the propaganda, especially through the French Consul at Mogador, and has acquired great influence with the Sultan and the Government.

Also, it is stated that a French Military Commission makes a survey of the country, especially of the strategic points; also are sent extracts of press in Algerian and French papers, advocating a French Protectorate in Morocco.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires would be much obliged to know whether similar reports have reached the Foreign Office, and whether, on the authority of those reports, the Foreign Office thinks they are to be entirely disbelieved.

Mr. White to the Earl of Idlesleigh.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 52.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 21, 1886.

NEWS has reached Tangier of the death of Cid Houssein Ben Hashem, the powerful Chief of Ait Ba Amran, in Soos.

Cid Houssein was the head of a very influential family of Sherrefs, who have always been held in veneration in Soos, where he himself exercised great personal influence, which extended over all the Shloh tribes, and, though nominally a subject of the Sultan, he was regarded almost as an independent Potentate, and was virtually beyond His Majesty's control, and a perpetual source of danger to his rule in Soos.

During the Sultan's late expedition to Soos this Chief sent two of his sons bearing presents to the Sultan, but was careful not to place himself in the Sultan's power by coming in person to His Majesty's camp.

The suddenness of Cid Houssein's death at a moment so opportune for the Sultan's

interests has given rise to a report that he was poisoned by His Majesty's contrivance. I have no means of ascertaining the truth of this rumour, but the very opportuneness of his death would suffice in a country like Morocco to cause such a rumour to get abroad.

Cid Hosein was suspected of having been engaged at various times in intrigues with the French authorities to undermine the Sultan's authority in Soos and bring about a revolt.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 25.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 53.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 23, 1886.

I OBSERVE that the "Times" and the "Standard" have published telegrams from their Berlin correspondents, stating that Cid Mohammed Bargash, the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and his son Kaid Hussein Bargash, the Minister for War, are on their way to Berlin on an important mission.

There is, I believe, no foundation for this report. Cid Mohammed Bargash has resided at Rabat during the last year and a-half, and has ceased to transact business with the foreign Representatives, Hadj Mohammed Torres having replaced him at Tangier. It is said, however, that the Sultan still occasionally consults him in matters affecting foreign policy. He has been suffering for some time past from cataract, and is now almost totally blind, and had proposed to visit France in order to undergo an operation. He has no son of the name of Kaid Hussein, and his son Hadj Mohammed, who was lately appointed to act in the capacity of Minister for War, died at Rabat a few days since.

I took an opportunity to mention these telegrams to M. Testa, the German Minister, who informed me that, as far as he was aware, there was no foundation whatever for the statement they contained, as he had not heard that either Cid Mohammed Bargash or his son had had any intention to visit Berlin. He supposed that the rumour had originated in an article that had appeared in the Tangier paper "Al Moghreb al Akse," and had been quoted in the "Cologne Gazette."

M. Testa added that at the end of last year the Sultan had expressed a wish to send an Envoy to Berlin as he had done to Madrid, Paris, and Rome, but that he had hunted that the Mission would then be inopportune, as at that time Commissioners had not yet been sent to negotiate the Convention of Commerce, but that such a Mission should be rather deferred until the negotiations had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Extract from the "Gibraltar Chronicle" of August 19, 1886.

MOHAMMED BARGASH, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Morocco, and his son, Kaid Hussein Bargash, the Minister of War, says a "Standard" telegram from Berlin, are on their way to Berlin upon an important mission. They are coming more especially to confer with Prince Bismarck on the future relations between the German and Moorish Empires; and, secondly, to transact various other business. Mohammed Bargash is bringing with him an autograph letter from the Sultan of Morocco to the Emperor William. The Moorish War Minister intends to devote special attention to the German army. It is said that he contemplates entering into a contract with Herr Krupp for the supply of artillery, and desires to engage a number of German officers to drill the army of Morocco.

* See No. 94 of September 26, 1884, and No. 3 of January 14, 1885.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Extract from the "Times" of August 14, 1886.

THE Foreign Minister of Morocco, Mohammed Bargash, and his son, Kaid Hussein Bargash, who acts as Minister of War, are expected here in a short time. The former comes specially to consult a physician, but he will seek interviews with the Emperor and Prince Bismarck. The Moorish Minister of War intends to study the German military system, and to secure the services of several German officers as instructors for the Moorish army.

No. 26.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 23, 1886.

I LEARN from Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador that a Royal letter has been read in the principal mosque of that town, informing the people of the successful termination of His Shereefian Majesty's Soos expedition.

His Majesty stated in the letter that he had proceeded as far south as Wad Noon, and had been loyally received everywhere, but that on the way back certain ill-advised people of the tribes of Shtooka and Howara had rebelled and had been chastised, and that the lawless mountaineers of Eda Ontana had likewise been in revolt, objecting to the establishment of a regular Government, but that they also had been subdued and had brought in sacrifices and peace offerings, and that order had been restored in all the southern provinces.

The Sultan wrote this letter from Haha, in which province Mogador is situated, and was then marching to Morocco city, where he was expected to arrive last week.

There appears to have been no truth whatever in the rumours that were telegraphed to Europe that the Sultan had met with reverses in Soos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 27.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 1, 1886, 3:55 P.M.

IT is rumoured that French Agents in Morocco, aided by Shereef of Wazan, are actively intriguing with view to French Protectorate.

French Minister alleged to foster the propaganda through French Consul at Mogador.

French Military Commission said to be making survey of country, and French press to advocate Protectorate.

Report fully.

No. 28.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. White.

(No. 55. Secret. Ext.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 1, 1886

IT has been reported to Her Majesty's Government that intrigues are being actively carried on by French agents in Morocco, assisted by the Shereef of Wazan, with a view to place that country under the protectorate of France.

It is alleged that these intrigues are fostered by the French Minister in Morocco, who is stated to more especially avail himself of the services of the French Consul at Mogador for the purpose, and who is said to belong to the Musselman sect of the Essigianin, and to have acquired great influence with the Sultan and his Government.

It is further reported that a French Military Commission is employed in surveying the country, particularly the strategic points, and that portions of the press both in France and Algeria advocate the establishment of a French Protectorate over Morocco.

I have, under these circumstances, to instruct you to institute searching inquiries into the truth of these rumours, and to furnish me with a full report on the subject. The substance of this despatch has been sent to you by telegraph to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 29.

Messrs. A. F. and R. W. Tweedie to Sir J. Parncefote.—(Received September 2.)

Sir,
5, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, September 2, 1886.
AS agreed at our interview with you on the 25th ultimo we beg to forward a note we have prepared of the different facts which General Hamida Ben Ayad, as a British subject, complains of, and which you have kindly intimated you might be prepared to place before the French Government.

We have endeavoured to make the note as concise as possible, consistent with its being perfectly comprehensible.

Referring to our conversation with you we find that the reason why the claims of General Ben Ayad, which had any reference to landed property, were not submitted to the arbitrators, was because such questions were not included in the reference to them, as is clearly shown, we believe, by a letter from M. Waddington to Lord Granville, dated the 29th December, 1883.

At the same time, we wish to state that General Ben Ayad has done all he possibly could to meet the Tunisian Government, and we feel certain that if you would grant him an interview some means might easily be found by which both the claims of the Tunisian Government and of General Ben Ayad might be settled once for all, with the friendly co-operation of the Governments of England and France, and we may add that the General is so desirous of living in peace that he would be prepared to make any reasonable sacrifice in order to attain that end.

The General is anxious to leave England, as important business requires his presence elsewhere; and if you could possibly grant him an interview at an early date, it would be considered a great kindness.

We are, &c.
(Signed) A. F. AND R. W. TWEEDIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Note de certaines Réclamations du Général Hamida Ben Ayad, soumises au Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.

1. Au sujet des procédés du Bey de Tunis et de Tahar Ben Hassan, au sujet des propriétés du Général Hamida Ben Ayad, situées à Waten-el-Kebli.

L'ANCIEN Bey de Tunis, Mohammed-el-Saddock, a donné à son Ministre Mustapha-ben-Ismael certaines propriétés et l'acte de donation a été fait en la forme ordinaire et scellé du cachet du Bey.

En 1881 ou 1882, du vivant du Bey Mohammed-el-Saddock, le Général Hamida Ben Ayad a acheté de Mustapha-ben-Ismael une partie de ces propriétés et le Général a payé les droits de timbre et tous impôts dus au Gouvernement Tunisien.

Le Général ayant découvert que Mustapha avait, antérieurement à la vente et à son insu, donné les propriétés à bail pour trois ans, a voulu faire annuler la vente. Il y eut à la suite de cette affaire un procès assez long et en dernier lieu la Cour d'Appel d'Aix déclara que la vente était valable et obligea le Général à prendre possession des propriétés, il fut par conséquent mis en possession par M. Dehol le séquestre des propriétés nommé par la Cour, et les titres de propriétés furent examinés et approuvés par les notaires Tunisiens.

A cette époque le Gouvernement Tunisien avait pleine connaissance de toute l'affaire puisque le Général s'était adressé au Bey pour faire annuler la vente, et le Consul Français était aussi au courant de l'affaire, le procès contre Mustapha-ben-Ismael ayant été commencé devant la Cour Consulaire. Ni le Gouvernement Tunisien

ni le Consul Français ne se sont opposés à la vente par Mustapha; la Cour Consulaire Française elle-même déclara la vente bonne, et par son Jugement condamna Ben Ayad à prendre possession. Après avoir ainsi été obligé de prendre possession et de payer le prix de ses propriétés, le Général en donna une partie en hypothèque à un M. Valensi comme garantie d'une somme de près de 300,000 fr. et quelque temps avant l'époque fixée pour le remboursement et dans le but de se procurer les fonds nécessaires, il vendit une partie de ces propriétés à un nommé Hadji Ayad. C'est à ce moment que le Bey actuel déclara que ces propriétés lui appartenaient comme "habbous," c'est-à-dire biens de famille et inaliénables, et en conséquence Hadji Ayad se refusa d'en payer le prix au Général, qui lui intenta un procès pour l'y obliger, et l'affaire venant en appel devant la Cour d'Alger, Hadji Ayad fut condamné à payer le prix d'achat au Général; mais malgré cela Hadji Ayad, qui est Tunisien et par conséquent à la merci du Bey, a été si épouvanté par la réclamation de ce dernier qu'il refuse toujours de payer le prix des propriétés achetées, et le Général est obligé de chercher à se récupérer tant bien que mal en faisant exécuter son jugement contre les propriétés personnelles de Hadji Ayad.

La conduite du Bey actuel est d'autant plus blâmable que l'acte de donation à Mustapha Ben Ismael est revêtu, ainsi que nous l'avons déjà dit, du sceau du Bey, et par une lettre adressée au Consul Anglais le Bey Mohammed-el-Saddock déclara solennellement que toute pièce ainsi scellée devait être considérée comme un titre indiscutable.

La prétention élevée par le Bey actuel a causé au Général le plus grave dommage; il est aujourd'hui dans l'impossibilité absolue de vendre aucune de ses propriétés, car on pense à Tunis que ses titres de propriétés sont tous discutables à cause des réclamations du Gouvernement, et cela suffit dans ce pays pour paralyser toutes les affaires qu'il voudrait faire; et de plus, Hadji Ayad n'ayant pas payé son prix d'achat, le Général n'a pas pu rembourser Valensi, qui l'assigna en remboursement et le fit condamner, et c'est dans l'exécution de ce Jugement qu'un des fonctionnaires Tunisiens s'est permis certains actes arbitraires dont le Général se plaint. Voici les faits.

Au lieu de faire exécuter le Jugement par le ministère des huissiers du Tribunal qui auraient saisi les récoltes et autres biens meubles du Général et les auraient vendus après publicité faite et d'une façon régulière et publique, et de manière à obtenir le prix le plus élevé possible, M. Valensi, le créancier, persuada un certain Tahar Ben Hassan, Gouverneur d'Eloutatan-el-Kebli, et Général de la Garde de son Altesse le Bey, à distribuer une lettre Circulaire (copie de laquelle est envoyé avec cette note).

En conformité de cette Circulaire toutes les récoltes appartenant au Général ont été saisies, et ce qui est d'autant plus outrageux c'est que Tahar Ben Hassan a dit dans cette Circulaire que le Général était mort (tandis qu'il savait parfaitement bien le contraire) et que son fils comme héritier était par conséquent responsable pour les dettes de son père; et il ordonna aux Caïds de saisir les récoltes appartenant au fils, qui a été effectivement fait.

Avant que le Général put s'informer de ces procédés extraordinaires deux tiers de ses récoltes avait été vendus en cachette et pour des prix si absurdes et si honteusement insuffisants qu'il est absolument certain que les Caïds qui ont saisi les récoltes et les ont fait vendre ont agi d'une façon frauduleuse et ont dû s'entendre avec les acheteurs.

Sur un référé introduit par le Général pour protéger les récoltes non encore vendues le Juge du Tribunal de Tunis s'est déclaré incompétent contre Ben Hassan, ce dernier ayant agi en sa qualité de fonctionnaire et par conséquent n'étant pas responsable d'après la loi Française vis-à-vis des Tribunaux Judiciaires, et sur une demande en dommages-intérêts contre Valensi et Tahar Ben Hassan le Tribunal a condamné Valensi à payer une somme dérisoire et a déclaré que Ben Hassan n'était pas responsable, attendu qu'il avait agi d'après les coutumes Tunisiennes et dans l'ignorance des règles de la procédure Française, auxquelles le Général avait droit. Tous ces faits sont consignés dans un procès-verbal de Grangeon, huissier commis à cet effet par le Procureur de la République à Tunis.

2. Affaire Nud.

Le Général Hamida Ben Ayad est propriétaire de certains terrains à Tunis dans le quartier de la Marine qu'il a occupé sans conteste pendant plus de quarante ans; mais peu de temps avant l'occupation Française à Tunis le Collège Sadiki éleva des prétentions.

tion au sujet de ces terrains, et le Général, d'après le conseil du Consul Anglais, y mit des gardiens.

En 1884 un Français du nom de Nué, se faisant fort d'une concession du Collier Sautiki, intenta un procès au Général afin d'obtenir possession d'un de ces terrains situé dans la Rue El Manoubia. Sa demande fut rejetée, et le Général, maintenu en possession, continua à louer le terrain à des charretiers, qui y remisaient leurs charrettes, &c. Le Général s'adressa à la Municipalité pour obtenir l'autorisation de clore le terrain, mais il ne reçut aucune réponse à sa demande.

Au mois de Mai dernier la Municipalité publia un Arrêté enjoignant à tous les propriétaires de terrains non bâtis à Tunis de les clore, et avant que le Général put se conformer à cet Arrêté, il obtint des autorités municipales l'autorisation de clore le terrain qu'il avait vainement contesté au Général, et alors, sans avoir le moindre droit, soit de propriété, soit de possession, et malgré le Jugement rendu contre lui, Nué, avec l'assistance de la police de Tunis, clasa les gardiens et les locataires du Général, prit possession du terrain, et le fit clore.

Le Commissaire de Police de Tunis mena même les gardiens nommés par le Général de les faire jeter en prison s'ils offraient la moindre résistance. Le Général n'a pu obtenir aucune satisfaction, les Tribunaux en refusant de s'immiscer dans l'affaire, et le Gouvernement Tunisien n'a pas répondu à la protestation faite au nom du Général par le Consul Anglais.

3. Affaire Salmoul

Le Général Hamida Ben Ayad a une vaste propriété appelée Salmoul, qui a été en sa possession depuis plus de quarante ans. Des parties ont été à diverses époques louées, et il y a environ huit ou dix personnes, dont quelques-unes sont voisines et locataires de la propriété, s'emparèrent de certaines parties de la propriété.

Le Général s'adressa au Bey Mohammed-el-Saddock qui, sur le rapport qui lui fut fait par le Cadi, rendit un Jugement en faveur du Général, en donnant au Gouverneur de la Province de le mettre en possession et de lui faire payer les arriérés de fermage.

L'entrée des Français à Tunis laissa toutes ces affaires en suspens, mais en 1884 le Général obtint un autre Décret du Bey annulant le premier Jugement. Malheureusement le Général ne put le faire exécuter, et à toutes ses plaintes au sujet du mauvais vouloir du Gouverneur de la province, il ne reçut que des réponses dilatoires, et le dernier lieu le Ministre a répondu à Hassouna Ben Ayad, le frère et le fondé de pouvoir du Général, qu'il ne pouvait rien faire pour lui maintenant attendu que les personnes qui s'étaient emparées du terrain l'avaient vendues à des Français ou s'étaient associées des Français, notamment l'interprète du Consulat de France à Sousse.

4. Réclamation de Hassouna Ben Ayad.

L'année dernière, pendant que Hassouna Ben Ayad, le frère du Général, était absent de Tunis, le Directeur des Travaux Publics, sans aucun avis préalable, s'empara d'une langue de terrain large de 2 mètres sur une longueur de 200 mètres, formant la façade d'un jardin appartenant à et occupé par Hassouna Ben Ayad à Sidi Bon Said, près Tunis.

Les Agents du Gouvernement dirent simplement qu'ils avaient besoin d'élargir la route s'en emparèrent en arrachant la haie, et détruisirent les arbres fruitiers et laissèrent le surplus du jardin ouvert à tous venants.

Le Président du Tribunal se déclara incompétent, et ne voulut même pas nommer un expert pour évaluer le dommage, déclarant qu'il n'avait aucun devoir d'intervenir dans les questions de propriétés entre l'Administration Tunisienne et un sujet Anglais.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

(Translation.)

Note of certain Claims of General Hamida Ben Ayad, submitted to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

1. As to the proceedings of the Bey of Tunis and of Tahar Ben Hassan with reference to General Hamida Ben Ayad's property, situated at Waten-el-Kebli.

THE former Bey of Tunis, Mohammed-el-Saddock, made a donation to his Minister, Mustapha Ben Ismael, of certain estates, and the deed of gift was made in the usual form, and sealed with the Bey's seal.

General Hamida Ben Ayad bought part of these estates from Mustapha Ben Ismael in 1881 or 1882 in the lifetime of the Bey Mohammed-el-Saddock, and the General paid stamp and other duties thereon to the Tunisian Government. The General finding that Mustapha had, previous to the sale and without his knowledge, leased the estates for three years, endeavoured to withdraw from the purchase, and a considerable amount of litigation ensued. Eventually the Court of Appeal of Aix held that the sale was valid, and obliged the General to take possession. He was, consequently, put in possession by the receiver of the estates, who had been appointed by the Courts, and the title-deeds were examined by the Tunisian notaries.

At the time the Tunisian Government was fully informed of the whole transaction, as the General had applied to the Bey to have the sale rescinded, and the French Consul was also cognizant of the matter as it was in his Court that Mustapha Ben Ismael was originally sued, and neither the Tunisian Government nor the French Consul raised the slightest objection to Mustapha's selling; in fact, the French Consular Court enforced the sale against the General.

After having thus been obliged to take possession of, and pay for, these estates, the General mortgaged a part of them to a M. Valensi for the sum of 300,000 fr., and, sometime before the mortgage debt became due, and in order to raise the money to pay it off, he sold a portion to a man of the name of Hadji Ayad. The present Bey thereupon put in a claim to these estates, declaring that they were "habbous," that is to say, inalienable, as belonging to his family, and in consequence of this claim, Hadji Ayad refused to pay the purchase-money to the General, who brought an action against him for specific performance. Ultimately the Appeal Court of Algiers ordered Hadji Ayad to pay the purchase-money to the General, but notwithstanding this Order, Hadji Ayad, who is a Tunisian subject, consequently, quite at the mercy of the Bey, has been terrified by the claim the latter put in that he still refuses to pay, and the General is consequently left to seek what poor compensation he can obtain by taking in execution whatever property Hadji Ayad may have.

The present Bey's conduct is quite unjustifiable, as the original deed of gift to Mustapha Ben Ismael is, as we have already mentioned, duly sealed with the then Bey's seal, and, by a letter to the English Consul, the Bey, Mohammed-el-Saddock, solemnly declared that all documents sealed in that way were to be considered as undoubted title-deeds.

The claim put forward by the present Bey has caused the gravest prejudice to the General. He is now absolutely unable to sell any of his estates, as it is generally considered that he cannot make a good title to them; in fact, no one in a country like Tunis will enter into any transaction with a man whose property is claimed by the Government, and, moreover, Hadji Ayad, not having paid his purchase-money, the General was unable to pay off his debt to Valensi, who sued him for the amount, and obtained Judgment against him. It was in the execution of this Judgment that a Tunisian official took certain arbitrary proceedings, which form the ground of further complaint. The facts are as follows:—

Instead of the Judgment being executed in the ordinary way by "huissiers" of the Tribunal, who would have seized the crops and other movables belonging to the General and would have sold them after due publicity, and in a regular and open manner, so as to assure their being sold at their full value, Valensi, the mortgagee, induced a certain Tahar Ben Hassan, Governor of Elouatan-el-Kebli, and General commanding the Bey's Body-guard to issue a Circular (copy of which is sent herewith), and in accordance therewith, all the crops belonging to the General were seized, and, what is still more outrageous, Tahar Ben Hassan stated in this Circular that the General was dead (whereas he was perfectly aware of the contrary), and, therefore, his son was, as heir, responsible for the debt of his father, and he directed the Cads to seize the crops belonging to the

son, which was effectively done, and before the General or his son knew anything of these extraordinary proceedings, two-thirds of these crops had been sold in a surreptitious manner at prices so ridiculously and scandalously low as to necessarily imply fraud or collusion on the part of the Calds who seized the crops and conducted the sales.

On an interlocutory Motion to protect the remaining crops, the Judge of the Tribunal of Tunis held that he was not competent to make any Order against Tahar Ben Hassan, who had acted in his official capacity, and therefore, according to French law, was not answerable for his acts to a Judicial Court; and in an action for damages against Valensi and Tahar Ben Hassan, the Tribunal has given merely nominal damages against Valensi, and has declared Tahar Ben Hassan not responsible, on the ground that he merely acted in accordance with Tunisian custom, and was ignorant of the rules of French procedure, to the benefit of which the General was entitled, all these facts are duly certified by the Report of the French "huissier," Grangeon, who was appointed to make this Report by the "Procureur de la République de Tunis."

2. Case in reference to Nué.

General Hamida Ben Ayad is the owner of certain landed property at Tunis, in the Quartier de la Marine, of which he had been in undisputed possession for more than forty years, but shortly before the French occupation of Tunis the College Sadiki made a claim thereto, and the General, acting on the advice of the English Consul, put guardians on the land.

In 1884 a Frenchman of the name of Nué, claiming under a grant from the College Sadiki, brought an action against the General to obtain possession of a portion of the land situated in the El Manoubia Street. This action was dismissed, the General was maintained in possession, and continued to let the land to waggoners, who put up their carts, &c., on it. The General applied to the Municipality for leave to fence the land; no reply was ever given to his application, but in the month of May last an Order was made by the said Municipality calling upon all owners of land in Tunis to fence in the same, and before the General had been able to act on this Order, Nué obtained from the town authorities an authorization to fence in the piece of land which he had unsuccessfully claimed, and thereupon, without having any proprietary or possessory rights, and in direct opposition to the Judgment delivered against him, Nué, with the assistance of the Tunisian police, drove out the guardians put in by the General, and his tenants took possession of the land and fenced it in.

The Commissioners of Police at Tunis threatened the guardians appointed by the General with imprisonment if they offered any resistance.

The General has been unable to obtain any redress. The Courts have refused to interfere, and the Tunisian Government has given no answer to a protest made on the General's behalf by the English Consul.

3. Salmoud Affair.

General Hamida Ben Ayad is the owner of a large landed estate called Salmoud, which has been in his possession for upwards of forty years.

Portions had at different times been let, and some eight years ago various persons, some of whom are tenants and neighbours, took possession of the outlying portions of the estates. The General applied to the Bey Mohammed-el-Saddock, who, acting on the report of the local Cadi, gave Judgment in favour of the General, ordering the Governor of the province to put him in possession and to enforce payment of the arrears of rent.

The entry of the French into Tunis left all these matters in suspense, but in 1884 the General got another Decree from the present Bey confirming the original Judgment. Notwithstanding, the General cannot get it enforced, and all his complaints about the evident ill-will of the Governor of the province are met with dilatory replies, and at last the Minister, when applied to by Hassan Ben Ayad, the General's brother and agent, said that he was helpless now, as some of the people who had taken possession of the lands claimed had sold them to Frenchmen or given Frenchmen interests therein, the interpreter of the French Consulate at Sousse being one of the parties thus interested.

4. Hassouma Ben Ayad's Claim.

Last year, whilst Hassouma Ben Ayad, the General's brother, was absent from Tunis, the Director of Public Works, without giving any notice, took possession of a strip of land 2 metres wide and 200 metres long, forming the frontage of the private garden belonging

to, and in the occupation of, Hassouma Ben Ayad, and situate at Sidi Bon Said, near Tunis.

The Government Agents merely said that they wanted to widen the road, and entered on the land, pulled down the hedge, destroyed the fruit trees, and left the portion of garden they did not want open to all comers.

The President of the Tribunal refused to interfere or appoint a valuer to assess the damage. He declared that he was not competent to interfere in questions of property between the Tunisian Administration and an English subject.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

Circular.

(Traduction.)

(Cachet du Vice-Consulat de France à Nabel.)

La Louage à Dieu !

Copie d'une Lettre reçue de M. Ettâher Belhacen, Gouverneur d'Elouten-el-Guebli.

MESSIEURS nos Sous-Gouverneurs dans la circonscription d'Elouten-el-Guebli, que Dieu vous soit favorable, que Dieu vous accorde protection et miséricorde. Ennate :

Il nous est parvenu un Jugement, écrit en Français, émanant du Tribunal Français en la capitale, daté du 23 Novembre, 1885, et contenant ce qui suit :—

M. Gabriel Valensi, banquier à Tunis, a donné mandat à son représentant, M. Proal, et cela en vertu du Jugement exécutoire rendu par le Tribunal Français à Tunis au mois de Juillet 1885 dernier en faveur du demandeur susdit contre Si Hamida-ben-Ayyad, et celui-ci en a été informé par une copie en deux forme du Jugement susdit.

En conséquence, je, Soussigné, Louis Proal, huissier près le Tribunal susdit, déclare que j'ai informé M. le Général Ettâher Belhacen, Gouverneur d'Elouten-el-Guebli, demeurant à Tunis, parlant à la personne de sa servante que le demandeur susdit est créancier de Abdeljelil-ben-Ayyad par le fait que celui-ci est l'héritier dans la succession de son père, le Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayyad, en vertu du Jugement susdit pour une somme qui se monte en principal à 309,175 fr., sans les intérêts et les frais.

Pour assurer paiement des sommes susdites le demandeur susdit fait par le présent saisie entre les mains de M. le Général de Brigade Ettâher Belhacen, Gouverneur d'Elouten-el-Guebli, de toutes sommes, créances, biens, et objets de toute nature qui peuvent se trouver entre ses mains pour quelque cause et à quelque titre que ce soit, et appartenant au dit Sieur Abdeljelil, fils de Hamida-ben-Ayyad, susdit propriétaire à Tunis, et notamment de la récolte de l'année courante, ou du prix de cette récolte, la dite récolte existant actuellement, ou bien pouvant se produire des fruits des jardins au vergers d'oliviers sis à Soleyman et à Niano, appartenant au dit Abdeljelil, hypothéqués par le dit Sieur Hamida-ben-Ayyad en garantie de la créance du demandeur.

Saisie et ainsi déclaré au Général susdit, et s'il se dessaisit par mise aux enchères de la récolte susdite ou de son prix, et de même de toute somme appartenant à l'Ayyad, et que ce ne soit pas au profit du demandeur sans que et avant qu'il ait été donné mainlevée de la saisie, il paiera deux fois outre la totalité des frais et dépenses, &c.

En vertu de ce qui précède, à l'arrivée de notre présente lettre, je vous prie de saisir immédiatement ce qui appartient au Sieur Abdeljelil-ben-Ayyad, et à son père, le Sieur Hamida susdit, c'est-à-dire tout ce qui leur appartient en fait de sommes, créances, biens, et objets quels qu'ils soient qui sont ou pourraient se trouver entre vos mains pour quelque cause, et à quelque titre que ce soit, particulièrement la récolte des oliviers effectuée ou à effectuer pendant l'année courante ou son prix pour ce qui se trouve sur votre territoire.

Si quelqu'un d'entre vous se dessaisit de quelque chose de cela sans autorisation ou sans levée de la saisie, il le paiera deux fois outre les frais et dépenses.

J'insiste expressément auprès de vous pour que vous ne commettiez aucune négligence à ce sujet, et que vous vous conformiez au Jugement précité sans y contrevenir.

[683]

L

Informez-nous de la réception de notre présente lettre, outre que chacun de vous devra en prendre une copie.

Salut!

Écrit le 28 Safar, 1303 (5 Décembre, 1885), (mention en Français).

Certifiée conforme à la lettre originale notifiée à Nabel.

Le Contrôleur Civil,

(Signé) TAUCHON.

Nabel, le 10 Décembre, 1885.

No. 30.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to M. Catalan.

(Private and Confidential.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Foreign Office, September 2, 1886.

WITH reference to the verbal communication which you were good enough to make at this Department on the 26th ultimo relative to the rumours which have reached the Italian Government on the subject of intrigues said to be in progress in Morocco with a view to the establishment of a French Protectorate over that country, and in returning to you my best thanks for this communication, I beg leave to acquaint you that no information confirmatory of the reports in question has reached Her Majesty's Government.

I have, however, lost no time in causing an inquiry to be made into the matter, and will not fail to communicate to you the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 31.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 30, 1886.

HAVING had recently occasion to go to Bizerta, in this Regency, I found that the Administration des Ponts et Chaussées was engaged in making blocks of concrete 7 tons in weight, and of the following dimensions: 2 metres long, 1½ metres broad, and 1 metre high. There are 160 such blocks now ready, and they are making them at the rate of two a-day. They are to serve to line the side of the channel connecting the outer lake with the sea, which channel is to be narrowed, so as to secure a swifter current to scour the channel and keep it open for the passage of boats.

The preparations which the French are making at Bona for enlarging the harbour there, which is to comprise a basin for naval purposes, would seem to show that there is no project on foot for making Bizerta a military port, which was disclaimed by M. Barthélemy St Hilaire in his despatch of the 16th May, 1881.

The only troops now in Bizerta consist of 105 artillerymen attached to a battery of artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 32.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 3, 10:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, September 3, 1886, 6:20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 1st instant, refer to my despatches Nos. 50 and 52. No French Military Commission in Morocco except that referred to in despatch No. 67 of the 23rd July, 1883.

Will report fully by post.

No. 33.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. White.

(No. 34.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 2, 1886.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 50, Confidential, of the 16th ultimo, relative to the alleged demand by France for the rectification of the Algerian frontier, and I have to convey to you my approval of the terms of the note you addressed to the Vizier on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 34.

Sir Villiers Lister to Consul-General Sir R. L. Playfair.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 8, 1886.

WITH reference to my letter of the 28th ultimo,* I am directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to transmit to you herewith, for any observations you may have to make thereon, a letter, with its inclosures, from Messrs. Tweedie,† forwarding a statement of the claim of General Benayad.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 35.

Sir Villiers Lister to Messrs. Tweedie and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, September 8, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant relative to the claims of General Benayad; and, in reply, I am to inform you that your letter has been forwarded to Sir J. Pauncefoot, who will communicate upon the subject with Sir L. Playfair, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Algeria, who is now in England. I am to add that the case will receive every attention, and that Sir J. Pauncefoot will consider it again on his return to London.

In the meanwhile, it appears to Lord Iddesleigh that no useful object would be attained by General Benayad calling at this Department at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER

No. 36.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 55. Ext.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 3, 1886.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, received yesterday, I have this day had the honour to report to your Lordship, by telegraph, that with the exception of the French officers who have for some years been residing at the Sheressian Court, as reported in Sir J. Drummond Hay's despatch No. 67 of the 23rd July, 1883, there is no French Military Commission at present in Morocco. With regard to the rumoured French intrigues in this country, I referred your Lordship to my despatches No. 50 of the 16th ultimo and No. 52 of the 21st ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddlesleigh.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 3, 1886

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, in reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that, as far as I can learn, there is no Special French Military Commission in this country.

In the year 1877 the Sultan engaged a retired English officer to reside at the Court, and instruct the Moorish troops.* On hearing of this appointment, the French Minister induced the Sultan to accept the offer of the services of some French officers, who were accordingly sent out by the French Government.†

Since that date a certain number of French officers and non-commissioned officers have been stationed at Rabat in charge of the batteries of that town, whilst others have been continuously maintained at the Court, ostensibly as instructors of artillery, and have accompanied the Sultan on all his expeditions.

The French War Office have been careful to select for this service competent staff officers, who have served in Algeria and are acquainted with the Arabic language.

These officers study and survey the country, drawing up maps and plans which are transmitted to the French authorities in Algeria, and to the French Minister in this town, whom they also supply with information regarding all that passes at the Court.

In the year 1883, when the relations between France and Morocco had become very strained through the aggressive and indiscreet diplomacy of M. Ordega, the Sultan endeavoured to free himself from the French officers, whom he rightly regarded as mere spies; M. Ordega, however, insisted on their remaining at the Court, and His Majesty had to give way.‡

I understand that these officers are really of no service to the Sultan, the number of men under their command for instruction being small; but the War Office at Paris has doubtless acquired through them a knowledge of a great part of this Empire, as by always accompanying the Sultan these officers have been able to penetrate to many districts hitherto unvisited by Europeans.

Several Frenchmen have of late years also travelled in an apparently private capacity, and sometimes disguised as Jews, over practically unknown parts of Morocco, some of them entering and leaving the country by way of Algeria, so that their visits attract no attention, or are even unknown at Tangier. It is supposed that these explorations are not so unconnected with the Government as they are wished to appear. I may mention the travels of M. de Foucauld from June 1883 to May 1884, M. Duveyrier in 1885, and M. de Campan in the same year.§

The press, both in France and Algeria, continues to advocate the annexation or Protectorate of Morocco, and there is no doubt that M. Ferry when Prime Minister held these views, and even went so far as to make propositions to the Spanish Government on the subject.

I inclose a number of the "Réveil du Maroc," containing an extract from an article in the "Akbar" of Algeria, in which the establishment of a Protectorate in Morocco like that in Tunis is advocated. Similar articles have appeared in other papers.

With regard to the intrigues carried on through the Shereef of Wazan and his agents, I may refer to the despatches marked in the margin,¶ from which your Lordship will observe that by granting protection to this Shereef the French Government secured a potent instrument for the furtherance of their ambitious designs in this country.

Their object no doubt was, at the opportune moment, to proclaim the Shereef Sultan, when it was expected that, through his prestige and spiritual influence, the greater portion of the population would rally to his flag, and he would be enabled to usurp the throne and rule under a French Protectorate.‡

For a similar object the French Government engaged in intrigues through their Consul at Mogador with the Great Shereef, Hasein Ben Hachem, whose authority in the south is even greater than that of the Shereef of Wazan in the north.

He was perhaps offered the country south of the Atlas as a separate kingdom, to be governed under a French Protectorate.

With these two powerful Shereefs on their side the conquest of Morocco would have been an easy matter, provided that the non-interference of the British, Spanish, and

* See No. 26, April 14, 1877.

† See No. 39, July 21, 1877.

‡ See No. 67, July 23, 1883.

§ See Royal Geographical Society's Proceedings, vol. viii, p. 547.

¶ No. 39, April 4; No. 30, April 7; Nos. 35 and 36, April 12, 1884.

‡ See No. 38, April 25, 1884.

Italian Governments could have been secured. With this object, overtures were made to the Government of Madrid for the partition of Morocco at a time when it was thought that Great Britain was too occupied elsewhere to intervene; the Spanish Government, however, declined to entertain the proposition.

The arrival of M. Féraud inaugurated a partial change in French tactics. It had been found that the overbearing and blustering policy of M. Ordega, combined with his imprudence and want of tact, was doing more harm than good to the cause of France. In M. Féraud the French Government have a diplomatist of a different school. Since his arrival at Tangier, he has succeeded in maintaining the most friendly personal relations with the Moorish authorities, as also with his colleagues, a perfect Arabic scholar, and well acquainted with the manners and customs of Oriental society. He has sought every opportunity of winning the friendship and confidence of the Sultan and his officers and of disarming suspicion, and has endeavoured to gain the good-will of the people by paying somewhat ostentatious marks of respect to their religion; as an instance, I may mention that when at the Court at Morocco he dismounted, and caused all his suite to do the same when passing in front of a sanctuary.

Whilst trying to win the confidence of the Sultan with the view to persuading His Majesty to accept a French Protectorate, M. Féraud has not lost sight of the alternative policy. As I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 50 of the 10th ultimo, every opportunity is taken of raising the prestige of the Shereef of Wazan, and the intrigues said to be still carried on through him are probably the more effective from being more secret.

Nor were the relations created with the Shereef Hasein Ben Hachem through the French Consul at Mogador neglected.*

This Shereef died a short time since, but it is said that he has been succeeded by a son who was implicated with him in the intrigues carried on through the French Consul at Mogador.

Whilst attributing this policy to M. Féraud, I think it right to state that I have no positive proof that these intrigues are still being carried on, at the same time, I think there are good grounds for suspicion, and I know that other French Representatives at Tangier entertain the same opinion.

I am informed by Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Acting Master for Foreign Affairs, that M. Féraud intends shortly to proceed to the Moorish Court "in a private capacity" to visit the Sultan simply as a friend, dispensing with the usual formalities of a large escort, &c.

I inquired of Hadj Mohammed Torres whether he was aware of what matters M. Féraud was going to treat. His Excellency replied that M. Féraud had told him it was to be a mere complimentary visit, as there were no matters of importance to be discussed.

It is supposed that the real object of this visit is to endeavour to induce the Sultan to consent to an extension of the Algerian frontier, and possibly to feel the ground with the view to a Protectorate.†

A rumour has lately been current here that a French Company have obtained a concession for the construction of a railway from Algeria towards Tangier. I am not, however, inclined to think that there is any truth in this rumour. It is possible, however, that the application has been renewed for a railroad to Wajda,‡ though I have no information as to such an application, and Hadj Mohammed Torres tells me he has heard nothing on the subject of railroads.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 37

Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of July 21, 1886.

"L'AKBAR" D'ALGER.—En réponse à notre article, "Le Maroc aux Marocains," paru dans le "Réveil" du 30 Juin dernier, un journal d'Algérie, "l'Akbar," en public, pour ainsi dire, la contre-partie, sous le titre de "Le Maroc aux Français."

Après avoir donné son approbation à la description que nous avons faite de l'état de désorganisation dans lequel se trouve le Maroc, notre confrère Algérien considère cette région comme vouée à devenir la proie de quelque Puissance Européenne. On

* See No. 52, August 21, 1886.

† See No. 55, August 18, 1886.

‡ See No. 35, May 24, 1885.

ne saisis, dit-il, d'un prétexte quelconque pour porter la guerre en ce pays, afin d'y implanter une domination nouvelle.

A la suite de cette prophétie, le rédacteur de "l'Akbar" trouve étrange que nous ayons conclu en disant que le Maroc devait être aux Marocains, et il ajoute :—

"Comment cela ?"

"Il (le Réveil) veut la réorganisation de tous les services administratifs à la tête desquels se trouveraient des auxiliaires loyaux, intelligents, dévoués, résolus à mettre un terme à tout abus, à propager au contraire l'instruction et les idées de progrès.

"Cela est facile à dire, mais à réaliser point. Il faudrait d'abord commencer par réformer les mœurs et les coutumes invétérées du peuple Marocain.

"Les anciens modèles ne peuvent être trouvés dans un milieu pourri, livré à toutes les basses intrigues, à toutes les mauvaises passions et surtout au fanatisme.

"Aussi la question Marocaine nous semble sans issue de ce côté.

"La plus favorable qu'on puisse trouver pour sa grandeur et son indépendance serait de soumettre l'Empire du Maroc au Protectorat Français, comme cela a eu lieu pour la Tunisie.

"L'autonomie du pays serait conservée, et les descendants de l'Empereur continueraient à hériter de la Couronne.

"Il n'y aurait de changement que dans l'administration. Un Résident Français à la tête des principaux services avec des fonctionnaires Français et Musulmans donnerait impulsion aux affaires du pays.

"Dans de pareilles conditions on pourrait faire prospérer d'innombrables Français, protéger le commerce international en prenant des mesures qui assurent la sécurité de l'approvisionnement du Royaume.

"La coupe d'armée Française serait la seule partie à toute efficacité et pour réprimer tout mouvement insurrectionnel.

"Voilà ce qu'il serait nécessaire de faire pour un pays possédant des richesses naturelles, mais que l'ignorance et la barbarie des autochtones empêchent d'exploiter.

"Nulle Puissance n'est en meilleure situation que la France pour accomplir cette tâche digne de sa haute mission civilisatrice.

"Elle est à peine séparée du Maroc par la Méditerranée et de plus elle possède une Colonie limitrophe, l'Algérie, dont la prospérité ne tarderait pas à rayonner au delà des frontières de la province d'Oran.

"Notre conclusion à nous est donc que le Maroc ne doit pas être aux Marocains, mais aux Français.

"C'est le plus grand bonheur qui puisse lui arriver."

"L'Akbar," dans sa citation, a oublié de mentionner le remède que nous proposons d'apporter à la situation actuelle, c'est-à-dire d'avoir auprès du Chef de l'Etat les Représentants des nations civilisées. Comme nous le disions, ceux-ci, par leurs conseils, parviennent certainement à faire comprendre au Sultan l'intérêt qu'il y aurait pour lui d'avoir un entourage s'inspirant des idées de progrès, et lui désignant les fonctionnaires "probes et loyaux" à placer à la tête des services administratifs, n'en déplaise à notre confrère Algérien, des hommes de cette catégorie ne sont pas introuvables au Maroc.

Quant au remède que "l'Akbar" lui-même propose, le "Maroc aux Français," nous lui répondrons en retournant sa phrase; cela est facile à dire, mais à réaliser point. Ah! s'il était possible que la France pût implanter ici sa domination par les voies pacifiques, nous vous tendrions la main, car, nous l'avons toujours dit, la France nous paraît la plus apte à accomplir "la tâche digne de sa haute mission civilisatrice" dont vous parlez.

Mais nous vous le demandons en toute sincérité: Croyez-vous que l'Espagne laisserait un tel fait s'accomplir sans faire entendre ses protestations? Et l'Angleterre, qui tient à Gibraltar presque autant qu'à son Empire Indien, croyez-vous qu'elle laisserait s'installer en face d'elle une nation Européenne, et qu'elle voudrait bien fermer les yeux? Qui sait même si l'Allemagne, toujours en quête d'embarras extérieurs à susciter à la France, ne trouverait pas là l'occasion propice pour l'embarquer dans quelque fâcheuse aventure? Or la France, à peine sortie de ses guerres de la Tunisie et du Tonkin, a plus que jamais besoin de paix; le rédacteur de "l'Akbar," quoique assoiffé de conquêtes nouvelles, ne devrait pourtant pas l'ignorer.

Quant à s'approprier le Maroc par les armes, il n'y faut pas songer. Jamais le Gouvernement Français ne trouverait dans le Parlement une majorité disposée à voter les crédits pour une pareille campagne; l'exemple que la Chambre des Députés a

fourni récemment au sujet des crédits destinés à l'occupation du Tonkin en est une preuve convaincante, car ces crédits n'ont été votés qu'à une faible majorité de quatre voix, alors cependant que l'honneur du drapeau Français était en jeu.

Mais "l'Akbar," en émettant ses idées au grand jour, n'a fait que nuire à la cause qu'il défend. Il a tout bonnement fait le jeu de M. de Bismarck, qui ne cherche qu'à éveiller les susceptibilités de l'Espagne à cet endroit. Et comme précédemment, nous concluons. Dans l'impossibilité de nous en rendre les maîtres, laissons "le Maroc aux Marocains;" cherchons seulement à y introduire le progrès par tous les moyens dont nous pouvons disposer.

No. 38.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 614.)

Foreign Office, September 11, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. White's Nos. 32 and 34 of August 21 and 23, 1886: ante, Nos. 24 and 26.]

No. 39.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 57.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 4, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the new French steam-ship "Gascogne," 7,200 tons, under the command of Captain Sautellier, of the French navy, arrived here yesterday morning from Marseilles, Oran, Algiers, and Gibraltar, and left again for Lisbon after a stay of a few hours.

The "Gascogne" belongs to the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, and is on a trial trip as far as Havre. Amongst other guests, she has on board M. Granel, the French Minister of Posts and Telegraphs; M. Pallan, the Director-General of French Customs, and Colonel Lichtenstein, Aide-de-camp to President Grévy.

The French Minister, accompanied by the officers of his Legation in uniform, went on board the "Gascogne" on her arrival to receive M. Granel; and when the whole party subsequently landed, they were met at the custom-house by Oud Hudj Mohammed Torres, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 40.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 6, 1886.

THE German Minister, M. Testa, mentioned to me in the course of conversation to-day that he had seen an article in the Paris "Temps," in which it is stated that the German Government had advanced to the Sultan the necessary capital for the construction of public buildings and other works at the port of Assaka, which it is intended to open to trade. M. Testa expressed his surprise that a serious paper like the "Temps" should publish such a statement, as there was not the slightest foundation for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 41.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 35.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. White's Nos. 32 and 34 of August 21 and 23, 1886: ante, Nos. 24 and 26.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Scott.

(No. 443.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1886.

[Transmits copy of General Brackenbury's letter of August 25, 1886: *ante*, No. 22.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. White.

(No. 35.)

Foreign Office, September 13, 1886.

[Transmits copy of General Brackenbury's letter of August 25, 1886: *ante*, No. 22.]

*Sir Villiers Lister to the Secretary to the Admiralty.**

Foreign Office, September 13, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 30 of August 30, 1886: *ante*, No. 31.]

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 15.)

My Lord,

London, September 13, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Office despatch of the 8th instant, forwarding for my observations a letter, with its inclosure, from Messrs. Tweedie, relative to the claims of General Benayad, herewith returned.

As far as I can judge, the General's claims are just and moderate, but we only know his own version of the case; probably a different light might be thrown upon it by the Government of Tunis.

General Ben Ayad's affairs are in a very embarrassed condition, and he himself is far from being a *persona grata* with the French authorities. I believe that, to some extent, this may be owing to the fact of his being under British protection, certainly to so many appeals in his behalf having been made from the Consulate in former years, and to the constant state of litigation in which he has been living of late.

Still, this does not affect the justice of his case; I believe he has been hardly used, and I think that Lord Lyons might fairly be asked to submit this, his final case, to the French Government, with a view to its being brought under the consideration of the Resident-General.

If this could be done, I would propose to discuss the matter personally with M. Cambon as soon as he returns to his post, and endeavour to bring about an amicable settlement of the question, though I am by no means sanguine of success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

P.S.—September 15. Since writing the above, I have seen the General Ben Ayad; he expresses his earnest desire to come to some amicable arrangement with the Tunisian authorities, and agrees to submit to any decision to which the Resident-General, on my representation, may arrive. But I feel that unless some representation be made to the Resident by the French Government my intervention will be in vain.

R. L. P.

* Also to the War Office.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Scott.

(No. 449.)

Foreign Office, September 16, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 53 of August 23, 1886: *ante*, No. 25.]

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Sir Villiers Lister.—(Received September 17.)

SIR J. H. DRUMMOND HAY presents his compliments to Sir Villiers Lister, and returns, as directed, the despatch from Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Tangier, inclosing a letter from the Vizier Garneet, expressing the desire of the Sultan to see him, should Sir J. H. Drummond Hay be authorized to revisit the Court of Morocco next year in a private capacity to take leave of His Sherrefian Majesty.

Sir J. D. Hay begs to thank Sir Villiers Lister for having had the goodness to send him this correspondence for perusal.

J. H. D. H.

David House, Inverness, September 12, 1886.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 626. Secret.)

Foreign Office, September 18, 1886.

[Transmits copies of No. 33, Secret, to Mr. White, dated September 1; to M. Catalani, Private and Confidential, dated September 2; and Mr. White's telegram of September 3, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 28, 30, and 32.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 627. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, September 18, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. White's No. 50, Confidential, of August 10, and No. 54 to ditto, dated September 3, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 20 and 33.]

Mr. D. Mackenzie to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord,

103, Leadenhall Street, London, September 18, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I returned from Morocco some time ago, after making inquiries into the condition of that country, my Report on which will soon be finished. As Sir John H. Drummond Hay has now retired from being British Minister at the Court of Morocco, and Mr. Kirby Green appointed his successor, I venture to lay before your Lordship a few facts with reference to the Moorish Sultan's expedition to the southern districts of the Empire, which I think should be carefully studied by the future Minister.

The inhabitants of the southern parts of the Moorish Empire, extending from Agadir to the Wad Draa, have for many years past refused to acknowledge the Sultan's authority nor pay any taxes, about eighty years ago Agadir* was an open port, and a place of considerable commercial importance, it is well sheltered, and most suitable for the trade of the southern regions. For many years back it has been closed, and the natives have been obliged to carry their merchandize, consisting chiefly of almonds, wool, skins, and oil, to Mogador, over 80 miles distant, and they have to pay from 4*l.* per ton for carriage, and run the risk of being robbed on the way without redress. They have asked for a port to be opened, but in vain. Considering the deplorable condition in which these people are placed, they could hardly be expected to pay taxes.

* Agadir is better sheltered than any other port on the west coast of Morocco.—J. H. D. H.

The Sultan's attention was, however, of late years aroused on account of certain trading operations in which I was concerned at Cape Juby,* outside his dominions. In 1882 His Majesty undertook an expedition to the Soos, with a view to bring those tribes under his authority, at the same time promising to open two ports, one at Agadur and another at Asaka; the Sultan's troops suffered terribly in this campaign from want of food, and the natives of the country through which they passed suffered in a similar manner; the important Chiefs retired into the interior, and refused to submit to the Sultan's authority; eventually the Sultan returned back with the wreck of his miserable host.† After ravaging the country and destroying its commerce, nothing more was heard of His Majesty's promises with regard to the opening of ports. This year the Sultan organized another expedition to the Soos on a more imposing scale, attended with most deplorable results. He entered the Soos, promising peace and the opening of a port at Asaka for trade, one of the worst places on the whole coast; the people, although distrusting His Majesty's promises, submitted for the time; the Sultan's troops soon began to pillage the whole country, and slaughtered the inhabitants with fire and sword,‡ destroying several tribes, and selling their wives and children for a few shillings a-head, and a large number of ghastly heads of the slain were carried in triumph to the Sultan's camp. The presence of the army on the chief caravan route has paralyzed business with Mogador, which depends on the Soos for its commerce; the arrivals of oils and other produce, and the demand for foreign manufactures, have ceased almost completely; many of the Chiefs have been carried away prisoners, which has caused so much discontent that the soldiers left to guard the proposed port have been driven away;|| this is the disastrous result of the Sultan's second expedition. In confirmation of these statements, the following appeared in the "Reveil du Maroc"¶ of the 8th September, 1886:—

"It is not only Haurra which has suffered, Massa has been compelled to submit to the same terrible outrages. The whole of the level country has been destroyed by fire; harvests, trees, houses, villages, nothing has been spared; other horrors have been committed too disgusting to describe, sufficient to say that, on our way to Massa, we met women and children almost dead with hunger, and as naked as they were born. The country is now filled with a mass of people rendered desperate by despair, crying for vengeance for their ruined homes, and their wives and children sold into slavery after having been subjected to the brutal passions of a horde of savages."

Sir John Hay, the late British Minister, informed me that the Sultan undertook these expeditions by his advice, backed by the British Government.** It can hardly be assumed that the British Minister and Her Majesty's Government could have foreseen, when tendering the Sultan their advice, that his expeditions would have led to such misery to the Soos people and the poor inhabitants of Morocco, who have to bear the charge of these marauding expeditions. It seems a serious question that the British Government should advise a friendly Sovereign to undertake a war† against his own subjects, which, in each case, ended in complete failure, and caused untold misery to innocent people, and was therefore most prejudicial to the commerce and development of the resources of the country.

No military expedition was necessary to open a port in the Soos; all the Sultan had to do was to send a few Commissioners, who would be welcomed by the natives, and make arrangements for the opening of Agadur, which was once of great commercial

* Also on account of Spanish, French, and English adventurers having attempted to carry on wheat trade (five vessels) from the Soos coast with the natives. These attempts failed, and the agents who landed were taken prisoners, which gave rise to vexatious questions with the Moorish Government.—J. H. D. H.

† Sultan never promised to open Agadur.—J. H. D. H.

‡ This expedition was undertaken during the famine in Soos against my advice. No ravages were committed by arms (1882) nor trade destroyed. Inhabitants were opposed Sultan's march. Baggage animals died by the thousands during the campaign from starvation.—J. H. D. H.

§ On the Sultan's march this year from Agadur to Wad Draa no opposition was met with, and there was no slaughter of tribes or other cruelties practised as described. On His Majesty's return the tribe of Idoum Tassan which had submitted, treacherously murdered their Governor, or attempted to do so, and attacked Sultan's troops. This tribe were attacked and defeated on return of Sultan, and no doubt horrible outrages may have been committed by the Sultan's troops and wild hordes.—J. H. D. H.

|| I have not received any tidings which confirm this allegation.—J. H. D. H.

¶ The account sent to the "Reveil" is very exaggerated and is said to have been drawn up by a French officer who had proceeded to the Soos in the hope of carrying out some project of placing that country under a French Protectorate.—J. H. D. H.

** I told Mr. Mackenzie that I had advised the Sultan to open Agadur and other ports to trade on the Soos coast as the best mode of putting a stop to the filibustering expeditions of foreigners, therefore that His Majesty should establish his authority in the Soos.—J. H. D. H.

†† Neither British Government nor I advised Sultan to undertake a "war" against his own subjects, but we advised him to open ports in the Soos coast for trade, and thus put a stop to the illicit attempts of Europeans to trade with natives which gave rise to vexatious questions.—J. H. D. H.

importance. Not one drop of blood need be shed to accomplish so excellent a project as the opening of a port, for the inhabitants of the Soos have in the past appealed to myself to open a port on their shores, but being part of the Moorish Empire, I could not accept their offer.

I trust your Lordship will be pleased to instruct Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Morocco to use his influence in the cause of commercial progress and the amelioration of the condition of the poor inhabitants of that country, and that all improvements and reforms should be carried out by peaceful measures, so that the great name of England may be honoured and loved by the Sultan and his subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DONALD MACKENZIE.

No. 51.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Scott.

(No. 455. Secret.)

Foreign Office, September 22, 1886.

[Transmits copies of M. Catalani's letter of August 25; to ditto, dated September 2; No. 33, Secret, to Mr. White, dated September 1, and Mr. White's telegram of September 3, 1886: ante, Nos. 23, 28, 30, and 32.]

No. 52.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 632. Secret.)

Foreign Office, September 22, 1886.

[Transmits copy of M. Catalani's letter of August 25, 1886: ante, No. 23.]

No. 53.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 241. Secret.)

Foreign Office, September 23, 1886.

[Transmits copies of M. Catalani's letter of August 25, to ditto, dated September 2; Mr. White's telegram of September 3, and No. 33, Secret, to ditto, dated September 1, 1886: ante, Nos. 23, 28, 30, and 32.]

No. 54.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 90. Secret.)

Foreign Office, September 23, 1886.

[Transmits copies of M. Catalani's letter of August 25, to ditto, dated September 2; Mr. White's telegram of September 3, and No. 33, Secret, to ditto, dated September 1, 1886: ante, Nos. 23, 28, 30, and 32.]

No. 55.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to M. Catalani.

(Private and Confidential.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires.

Foreign Office, September 23, 1886.

WITH reference to the verbal communication made by you on the 25th ultimo and to my reply of the 2nd instant on the subject of alleged French intrigues. Morocco, I

have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Report which has been received from Mr. White, Acting British Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, on the matter.*

I trust that this communication will be considered as strictly private and confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 56

Consul-General Drummond Hay to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 3. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, September 15, 1888.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3, Confidential, of the 9th April last, I have the honour to report that encounters between the tribes on the Tripoli-Tunisian frontier have continued to occur from time to time, and have been made the subject of complaints by M. Cambon, the French Minister Resident at Tunis, to the Government of this country, through the French Consul-General here. The Vali has maintained throughout that the Tripolitan tribes have either acted on the defensive, or attacked and pursued the "Werghuma" on Tripolitan territory. It is, of course, very difficult in such cases to ascertain the truth of statements made by one side or the other, though I am inclined to believe that the "Werghuma" have been generally, if not always, the aggressors. It would appear that two or three rifles seized by the "Werghuma" in these encounters have been sent to Paris, as furnishing proof of the encouragement given by the Tripolitan Government to these pretended invasions of Tunisian territory, by providing the Arabs with arms of precision.

Another subject of controversy has lately arisen with reference to some 10,000 Tunisian refugees, the remnant of those who, to the number of about 60,000, took refuge in this country on the occupation of Tunis by the French. The French Consul-General has repeatedly urged this Government to force the remaining refugees to recross the frontier; but the Vali, whilst expressing his willingness that they should do so, has refused to use force to compel them, as he considers it would be an act of injustice, and would, moreover, create a very bad feeling amongst their co-religionists in this country.

It is reported here that the French intend shortly to fortify Zerzis, a seaport on the extreme southern limit of the Tunisian frontier, and to garrison it with 1,000 men. The Vali tells me that such a step on the part of the French would be immediately followed by a reinforcement of the Turkish military posts near the frontier; and the Commander-in-chief of the military forces here proceeded a few days ago to inspect the frontier, and I am informed that barracks are to be immediately erected at Zuara to accommodate additional troops.

It is, I think, not improbable that these questions may ultimately lead to serious complications between the French and Turkish Governments. The Vali has assured me, confidentially, that in the event of the French attempting an invasion of this province, they will not be allowed to make a military promenade, as they did in Tunis; and that, in addition to the vigorous resistance that will be offered by the regular troops, he will arm the Arabs to act as auxiliaries, and that his plans are matured for raising the whole Mussulman population in this country, as well as in Tunis and Algeria, and in the interior on the borders of those countries, where a Holy War against the French would be proclaimed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 57.

M. Catalani to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 28.)

(Private and Confidential.)

My Lord,

19, Grosvenor Square, W., September 25, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter your Lordship has been good enough to send me on the 23rd instant, containing a Report of Mr. White on the subject of alleged French intrigues in Morocco.

I have the honour to offer your Lordship my very best thanks for that communication, which I have forwarded to Count de Robilant, with the request that it is to be considered as strictly private and confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. CATALANI.

No. 58.

Sir J. Pauncefoot to Mr. D. Mackenzie.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1888.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant on the subject of the expedition of the Sultan of Morocco to the southern districts of his Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOOT.

No. 59.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 20, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 56 of the 13th instant, transmitting copy of a letter from General Brackenbury, inclosing an extract from "Le Temps" in regard to an alleged loan by the Government of Germany to Morocco in order to enable the Sultan to open the port of Assaka, and to the supposed probable advent of German officers in Morocco to act as instructors in the place of French officers.

Your Lordship will already have learnt from my despatch No. 58 of the 6th instant, that there is no truth in the report that the German Government have furnished funds for the improvement of the port of Assaka.

I am not aware that the German Representative at Tangier had ever urged the Sultan to open this port. This step is rather due to the advice constantly tendered to His Sheroufian Majesty by Sir John Drummond Hay to open ports in Suos as the best means of establishing His Majesty's authority in that district, and of putting a stop to constant attempts to carry on a contraband trade with the tribes south of Magador.

With regard to the appointment of German officers as instructors of the Sultan's troops in the place of French officers, there is little likelihood that the French Government would consent to the withdrawal of their officers from the Moorish Court.

Moreover, M. Testa, the German Minister, informs me that he has no knowledge of any intention of the Sultan to engage German officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Mr. Egerton to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 500. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 27, 1886.

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 632, Secret, of the 22nd instant, inclosing a copy of a Memorandum of a verbal communication of M. Catalani respecting the activity of French agents in Morocco, and to previous communications with which your Lordship has favoured me on the subject of the relations of that country with France, I have the honour to state that I have seen nothing in the press, and have heard nothing which gives any backing to statements respecting French propaganda.

In speaking generally to M. de Freycinet, I have mentioned the various points alluded to in the Memorandum, and his Excellency has very positively assured me that so far from there being any French activity in Morocco, he had given particular instructions to the French Minister to remain as quiet as possible.

He said he had quite sufficient on his hands, and did not wish for any fresh questions or frontier complications for France in that part of the world, and he had every reason to believe that M. Féraud had faithfully complied with his instructions.

As for the French Military Commission alluded to, the Sultan was anxious for a map to be made of a portion of his dominions, and asked for French technical officers for that purpose: these were supplied, and a survey, a very rough and imperfect one, by the way, said M. de Freycinet, was made by these officers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 645.)

Foreign Office, September 29, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 67 of September 4, 1886: *ante*, No. 59.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 94. Secret.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 66, Confidential, of September 3, 1886: *ante*, No. 57.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 661. Secret.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 66, Confidential, of September 3, 1886: *ante*, No. 57.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 259. Secret.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 66, Confidential, of September 3, 1886: *ante*, No. 57.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 476. Secret.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 66, Confidential, of September 3, 1886: *ante*, No. 57.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 670.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1886.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a note of complaints which I have received from General Hamida Benayad, through his agent in this country, setting forth the different cases in which he alleges his inability to obtain justice at the hands of the Tunisian Government;* and I have to instruct you to bring the matter unofficially to the notice of the French Government, and invoke M. de Freycinet's good offices in the matter.

You will represent to his Excellency that these complaints establish *prima facie* grounds for apprehending that, owing to the prejudice which has been created against General Benayad by the constant litigation in which he has been engaged, he has not received strict justice at the hands of the French and native authorities in the Regency; and you will state that it would be gratifying to Her Majesty's Government if M. de Freycinet would take some action in the matter, with a view to an inquiry being instituted into the General's complaints, and if they should be well founded, to some steps being taken which will secure justice being done to his claims and complaints.

I am, &c.

(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 29, 1886.

WITH reference to that portion of my despatch No. 56 of the 3rd instant which refers to the French officers residing at the Court in the capacity of instructors to the Sultan's artillery, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it appears that these officers are now recognized as attached to the French Legation, for I am informed by Kaid Maclean, formerly of the 69th Regiment and now instructor of the Moorish infantry, that he has lately received a letter from a French Commandant written on paper stamped "Légation de la République Française au Maroc: Mission Militaire."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

M. Catalani to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 7.)

(Private and Confidential.)

My Lord,

Italian Embassy, London, October 4, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 2nd instant,† by which you have been so good to send me a copy of a Report from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris on the subject of alleged French intrigues in Morocco.‡

I beg leave to offer to your Lordship my very best thanks for that communication, which I have forwarded to his Excellency Count Robilant, with the remark that it is to be considered as strictly private and confidential.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. CATALANI

* No. 23.

† Not printed.

‡ No. 60.

No. 69.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 484. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 9, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. White's Nos. 58 and 59 of September 6 and 20, and Mr. Egerton's No. 500, Confidential, of September 27, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 40, 58, and 60.]

No. 70

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 27. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 9, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. White's Nos. 58 and 59 of September 6 and 20, and Mr. Egerton's No. 500, Confidential, of September 27, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 40, 58, and 60.]

No. 71

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 679. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 9, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. White's Nos. 58 and 59 of September 6 and 20, and Consul-General Drummond Hay's No. 3, Confidential, of September 15, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 40, 58, and 59.]

No. 72.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. White.

(No. 37. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 9, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Egerton's No. 500, Confidential, of September 27, 1886: *ante*, No. 60.]

No. 73.

Sir J. Pannecote to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 7. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 9, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Drummond Hay's No. 3, Confidential, of September 15, 1886: *ante*, No. 58.]

No. 74.

Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 414.)

My Lord,

Berlin, October 9, 1886.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 443 of the 15th ultimo regarding an alleged loan by the Government of Germany to Morocco, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have taken an opportunity to question Count Bismarck on the subject, and that his Excellency has assured me that there is no truth in the rumour circulated by the "Temps" newspaper.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

55*

No. 75*

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 64. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 7, 1886

WITH reference to former correspondence regarding French intrigues in Morocco and to my despatches No. 52 of the 21st August and No. 57 of the 4th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Scovasso, the Italian Minister, has informed me that he has succeeded in obtaining a copy of a letter which had been addressed to Cid Houssein ben Hashem in December last by M. Jacquety, Chancellor of the French Consulate at Mogador, writing by direction of the French Consul in which he requests him to direct his son, at that time with the Sultan at Morocco, to visit him at Mogador to discuss affairs which could not be committed to writing. He further read to me the translation of another letter dated January of this year which M. Jacquety had addressed the son of Cid Houssein, in which he stated that he had written to his father, but received no answer, and could not imagine the reasons of his timidity and

He urged him either to come himself to Mogador or to send some person of confidence to discuss with him "that which they desire," again saying that it cannot be committed to writing. He further says that the matter had been referred to the French Government, who "hoped that their object would soon be accomplished." He proceeds to contrast the French with the Spaniards, saying that no trust can be reposed in the latter, who have not the power of carrying out their wishes, whilst France is powerful and has many men of great capacity, and he cites the case of Tunis, "where the Mussulmans are well treated and prosperous under the protection of France."

M. Scovasso merely read the translation of these letters over to me, but the above is a correct abstract of their contents. He begged me to observe the greatest secrecy on the subject, as if any suspicion should arise that he had obtained these copies steps might be taken to prevent further news reaching him.

It appears from these letters that there had been previous negotiations and intrigues, and that the French Consul desired a personal interview to arrange final plans, whilst, at the same time, the complaint that Cid Houssein ben Hashem had not replied to M. Jacquety's letters seems to show that, probably on account of the Sultan's impending expedition to Soos, this Chief did not deem the moment opportune for further negotiations, or perhaps he was hesitating whether he would not perhaps be incurring too great a risk by continuing these intrigues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT B. WHITE.

No. 75.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 693. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 13, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 61 of September 20, 1886: *ante*, No. 67.]

No. 76.

Mr. White to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 22, 1886.

FOR several years past unpleasant reports have prevailed in Tangier regarding corrupt practices said to exist in the United States' Consulate in this town.

The conduct of the United States' Consul, Mr. Matthews, is not favourably viewed by his colleagues generally, who hold but little social communication with him. So conscious of this fact is Mr. Matthews, that he himself has for some time past abstained from attending even the official meetings of the foreign Representatives. The only Representative with whom he is on intimate terms is the Portuguese Minister, whose daughter is married to his son, Mr. Jasper Matthews, who holds the post of United States' Vice-Consul.

There can, I fear, be little doubt that both Mr. Matthews and his son have been guilty of gross irregularities. It is a matter of public notoriety that United States' protection has been extended to numbers of Moorish subjects, Mussulmans and Jews, in direct contravention to Treaty stipulations, and it is alleged that large sums of money have frequently been paid for such protection. Moorish Jews, who have perhaps paid a short visit to America, are claimed as United States' citizens, and are permitted to extend protection to their agents. Claims to a very large amount have been put forward by Mr. Matthews on behalf of natives of Morocco, stated to be United States' citizens or protégés, the greater part of whom, it is suspected, have no right to be considered as such.

Much scandal has been occasioned by the general belief that cases containing silks, velvets, gold thread, and other merchandize, on which heavy duties are leviable, are introduced for local traders free of duty by means of passes obtained from the United States' Consulate, in which it is declared that the cases contain goods for the personal use of the officials of the Consulate, and it is said that large quantities of contraband goods, such as guns, sulphur, saltpetre, &c., have been passed through the custom-house in the same manner.

I have received complaints from British subjects that it is impossible to compete with traders who obtain their goods in this way at a very small cost, whereas they have to pay a very heavy import duty. Sir John Drummond Hay, and some other Representatives, have constantly urged the Moorish authorities to take energetic measures to stop this abuse, but they are too timid to act with decision, and submit at the first threatening message they receive.

As an instance of the timidity of the Moorish officials when dealing with an unscrupulous Representative, I may mention the robbery of a collection of coins and a few trinkets from the house of Mr. Matthews by his own servants, when he compelled the Moorish Government to pay him 25,000 dollars as compensation for the articles robbed, which were probably worth at most 1,000 dollars. In this case the Moorish officials at first declined to be held responsible for a robbery committed by people whom Mr. Matthews had himself placed in his house, but in the end they were terrorized into paying.

In connection with this matter, a Moor of the name of Kaisay, who is stated to have paid a large sum for United States' protection, was sent in chains to Fez, and there kept in a dungeon, where he died after undergoing repeated severe floggings. A Gawan of the United States' Consulate, named Bu Cuabes, was also sent to prison in Fez, and subsequently in Mequinez, where he died. These two men are universally believed to have been innocent of complicity in the robbery. A third person, a lad, is still in prison for the same affair. He has repeatedly declared that he abstracted the coins at the instigation of Mr. Jasper Matthews, and for his benefit.

Mr. Perdicaris, a gentleman of property, the only United States' citizen residing in Tangier with the exception of some native Moorish subjects, who have obtained

naturalization, feeling strongly the discredit that attached to his country owing to the sinister rumours that prevailed regarding the United States' Consulate, determined to inquire whether there was any foundation for them in fact, or whether they were malicious inventions. Aided by his Secretary, Captain Rolleston, late of the 74th Regiment, who has resided for some years in Morocco, and who had already taken an active part in exposing and checking abuses practised by other officials, Mr. Perdicaris took great pains in inquiring into various irregularities which were reported to him. The result of his investigation was to convince him that the evil rumours were not without foundation. He accordingly brought the matter under the notice of the Government at Washington, who directed their Consul at Cadiz, Mr. Ingraham, to proceed to Tangier and inquire into the conduct of Mr. Matthews and his son.

Mr. Ingraham accordingly paid a visit of a few days to Tangier last winter, and subsequently sent in a Report, in which, I understand, he exonerated Mr. Matthews.

The result of Mr. Ingraham's investigation was surprising to no one. He arrived suddenly, no previous notice of his visit having been given to the officials, nor was he the bearer of any letters to the Moorish authorities informing them of the object of his mission. He is not acquainted with Arabic, and was therefore unable to converse with the local authorities except through an interpreter. He called on the Moorish officials and on the foreign Representatives, in some instances accompanied by Mr. Matthews, and inquired whether they had anything to allege against his character.

The foreign Representatives found themselves in a delicate position. Most of them were morally convinced of the justice of the charges brought against Mr. Matthews, yet they felt that if, without being able to produce positive proof, they were to assert their belief in his guilt, they might be accused of calumniating a colleague, while, at the same time, it would not have been consonant with their position to seek evidence against another Representative.

The Moorish officials were in an equally difficult position. They would not venture, without previously consulting the Sultan (for which there was no time) to make charges against a foreign Representative, and it is very doubtful whether even the authorities at the Court would have dared to put forward any charges, as they would have feared the consequences should they have failed to satisfy the United States' Government of their truth. Having themselves no Representatives at foreign Courts, they are entirely dependent in their communications with foreign Governments on the Representatives at Tangier, who can place their conduct before their Governments in the light they please.

It is thus probable that Mr. Ingraham was not furnished with positive proof to substantiate the charges that had been preferred against Mr. Matthews, who, on the other hand, was strongly supported by the lower classes of the European and Jewish population of Tangier, with whom as with the local journalists, he has always been careful to keep on good terms. A number of these people memorialized Mr. Ingraham on behalf of Mr. Matthews.

I now come to the matter which is the immediate cause of my addressing your Lordship on the present occasion, but I thought it desirable first to place your Lordship in possession of the foregoing facts, which will serve to explain the motives which induced myself and the great majority of the foreign Representatives to adopt the course I am about to describe.

On the 17th ultimo I received a letter from a Moorish subject—a certain Abdelam El Hala, of Fez, stating that the United States' Consul and Vice-Consul had extorted from him upwards of 10,000 dollars, and beseeching protection, lest he share the fate of El Kassy, who, as I have above stated, had been imprisoned and flogged to death in connection with the robbery of Mr. Matthews' coins.

Most of the foreign Representatives having received identic letters from this person, it was thought desirable to have a private meeting to exchange ideas as to what would be the best course to pursue in the disagreeable position in which we found ourselves placed by the receipt of this letter.

On the 19th August a meeting was accordingly held, which I attended, and which was also attended by the Representatives of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden and Norway. The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires and Portuguese Minister were not invited to join us, as it was not known whether they had received similar letters, the former having arrived at Tangier subsequently to its date, and the latter being connected by marriage with Mr. Matthews.

The unanimous opinion of all the Representatives who attended the meeting was, that it was due to Mr. Matthews to communicate to him the letter of El Hala, and, at our request, the Italian Minister, M. Scovasso, as Doyen *ad interim*, and as the Repre-

sentative who had been known to Mr. Matthews longest, and had been more intimate with him than the rest of us, called on him and delivered to him a copy of the letter, offering him our co-operation; he at the same time pointed out that it would be politic to allow El Hala full liberty to produce the documents he alleged he possessed in substantiation of the charges he had brought, charges of the falsity of which he assured him we were convinced.

Mr. Matthews asked to be furnished with a copy of the Arabic text of this letter, which M. Scovasso transmitted to him on the following day accompanied by the letter, of which a translation is herewith inclosed. Mr. Matthews, in reply to M. Scovasso, expressed his thanks for our proffered aid, and requested us to inform El Hala that he would not proceed against him until he had had time to produce the documents. He also stated that serious charges had been brought against El Hala, especially one by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hadj Mohammed Torres, of having misappropriated the property of his wards after poisoning their father.

I may mention, in parenthesis, that Hadj Mohammed Torres declared, in reply to an inquiry, that he had no knowledge of any questions against El Hala except a claim of the Interpreter of the United States' Consulate; he also said that the charge against El Hala, to which Mr. Matthews referred, had been inquired into and settled in El Hala's favour several years ago.

Not wishing to leave Mr. Matthews under the impression that we had any intercourse with El Hala, M. Scovasso replied that we could not consent to convey any message to him, or to hold any communication with him, and that we did not even know where he was residing. M. Scovasso further expressed an opinion that it was important that the question should be cleared up without loss of time, and offered, should he so desire, to take steps to prevent El Hala's escape, if permitted to go to Fez to bring his papers.

Mr. Matthews then addressed a letter to M. Scovasso declining our assistance, which he considered might make it appear that we were sitting in judgment on him; he added that he intended to treat the charges as beneath contempt, and again insinuated that we were in communication with El Hala.

The tone of this letter left a very unfavourable impression on the minds of all the Representatives. It was evident that Mr. Matthews wished to avoid any inquiry into the affair, whilst at the same time he covertly charged his colleagues with private dealings with El Hala. It was therefore resolved to cease from further communication with Mr. Matthews on the subject, and to acquaint Hadj Mohammed Torres with what had taken place, in order that the necessary steps might be taken to ensure a proper inquiry.

I have the honour to inclose copies of the letters addressed by M. Scovasso to Mr. Matthews and to Hadj Mohammed Torres. To the former Mr. Matthews replied by a letter, a copy of which is inclosed herewith, protesting that he did not in any way intend to treat his colleagues the wish to sit in judgment on him.

In the meantime, El Hala obtained from Fez the documents on which he relied to prove his charges against Mr. Matthews. It appears that, at the request of Mr. Perdicaris, M. Schultz, a German gentleman in his employment, nephew of the late German Minister, M. Weber, accompanied by Mr. E. Carleton, a British subject, as Interpreter, brought these papers to Tangier.

A few days later Mr. Matthews, having obtained from the Moorish authorities some soldiers, sent them, in company with his own cavasses, to Mr. Perdicaris' house to arrest El Hala, notwithstanding that he had already acknowledged that the latter was no longer under United States' protection. The arrest was not, however, then effected; but the following day, having obtained from Hadj Mohammed Torres a request for the man's seizure, Mr. Jasper Matthews himself arrested him in Mr. Perdicaris' house.

Shortly after, the United States' frigate "Quinnebaug" arrived at Tangier, and the Commander called on Hadj Mohammed Torres, in company with Mr. Matthews, and complained of his having permitted these charges to be made against a United States' official.

A day or two subsequently, the United States' Vice-Consul arrested Mr. Perdicaris, who was imprisoned for twenty-four hours and fined 50 dollars on the charge of having resisted the arrest of El Hala. Mr. Perdicaris was not granted a hearing, though I understand he had several witnesses to prove the falsity of the charge.

At Hadj Mohammed Torres' request, all El Hala's documents were delivered to him and sealed up till they should be examined.

Unfortunately, Hadj Mohammed Torres has since been dangerously ill, and it will probably be some time before he can attend to business. I fear, therefore, that this affair cannot be investigated as soon as could be desired.

Mr Matthews having observed that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, M. de Reglia, had not taken common action with his colleagues in this matter, addressed him a letter, inquiring the reason of his abstention. This letter M. de Reglia forwarded to M. Scovasso, with the request that he would reply directly to Mr. Matthews.

As it was evident from the letters of Mr. Matthews and M. de Reglia that our action throughout this question had been misinterpreted, and as these letters gave an official turn to the incident, M. Scovasso addressed a Circular to all the foreign Representatives, inviting them to meet at the Italian Legation in order that he might have an opportunity of placing our action in its proper light.

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the *procès-verbal* of the meeting which took place on the 17th instant, and which was attended by all the foreign Representatives except Mr. Matthews.

Whilst MM Schultz and Carleton were at Fes, another United States' protected Moor, named Shellal, came forward with complaints similar to those of El Hala. He accompanied them to Tangier, and went to the house of Mr. Perdicaris, where, I am told, he made a statement that he was being ruined by the demands made upon him by Mr. Matthews and his son, which he stated he could prove by letters in his possession. He requested Mr. Perdicaris to appoint him his agent and protect him against Mr. Matthews; but on Mr. Perdicaris informing him that he could not do this, he took fright and went to the United States' Consulate, where he declared that Mr. Perdicaris, Captain Relliston, M. Schultz, and Mr. Carleton had brought him to Tangier by false representations, had imprisoned him in their home, and had attempted to induce him to bring false charges against Mr. Matthews.

I trust your Lordship will not consider that I have reported this incident at undue length, but as I understand that various reports have already appeared in the public papers regarding it, I have thought it desirable to place on record all that has occurred, more especially as Mr. Matthews will doubtless report the matter to the United States' Government, and I understand that it is the intention of the other foreign Representatives to inform their respective Governments of what has taken place, either at once or when El Hala's papers have been examined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S. October 7.—This despatch has been delayed owing to the prolonged discussion raised by the *procès-verbal*, which has only just been completed. In the meantime, a further correspondence has taken place between the Italian, Austrian, and United States' Representatives, and a second meeting of the foreign Representatives has been convoked. I am, however, unwilling any longer to delay the present despatch, and will transmit the further correspondence, &c., at a future date.

H. E. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Hadj Abdeslam-el-Halu to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

10 Kadda, 1308 (August 11, 1886)

I, ABDESELAM-EL-HALU, of Fes, was under the protection of the Sultan of Morocco (may God assist him), and a great misfortune befell me, and I now beg the British Government to assist me, for I was an Administrator at Fes, and the Governor of that town schemed against me and seized and imprisoned me, and extorted from me 2,400 dollars.

When I saw this injustice, I presented myself before the Governor and besought him to release me from my post, telling him that I had in my possession notarial documents on people on account of business transactions, and I requested him to furnish me with letters to the Governors of the Interior, directing them to assist me in recovering these debts. For these letters I paid 200 dollars to the Governor and 80 dollars to his clerk. I came to Tangier, and met the American Consul, Felix Matthews, and presented him with 400 dollars, together with ten pairs of slippers, of Fes make and gold embroidered silk, sixteen pairs of gold embroidered slippers, and four silk haiks, and he gave me a paper stating that I was a sensar of an official of the Consulate. Some time after that he charged me with various matters, and I used to come myself and give (presents) or send them by muleteers and others, till I had paid a sum of 10,000 dollars and upwards; and I have letters from the Consulate bearing the signature of the Consul and the Minister (i.e., the Vice-Consul and Consul), some of them sealed and signed.

Now I am in fear that, if I give up protection, the American, Felix, will contrive some plot against me, so that I shall be imprisoned and flogged, as happened to the son of Kaissi, who sought protection, and when he repeated his request they said he had robbed the American Consulate. I am now afraid for my life and property, and on this and other accounts I beseech the British Government to assist me, and to write to the Sultan of Morocco (may God assist him) to pardon me for having taken American protection, and I beseech His Majesty also to protect and attend to me.

I have addressed an identic letter to all the Representatives in Tangier, and I pray God and the British Representative to protect me from the American before an injustice befall me.

(Signed) ABDESELAM BEN MOHAMMED-EL-HALU-EL-FASI

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

M. Scovasso to Mr. Matthews.

(Translation.)

Most Illustrious Consul-General,

Tangier August 20, 1886.

CONFORMABLY with the desire expressed by you yesterday, I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith inclosed, a correct copy of the Arabic letter which has been addressed to me and to some of our colleagues by a certain Abdeslam Hala-el-Fasi.

I have to repeat to your Excellency what I had the honour to express to you verbally yesterday in my own name and in that of the majority of our honourable colleagues, viz., those of Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and Sweden and Norway, who received letters from the said Mohammed Hala, that is, that we were convinced that the statements contained in the above-mentioned letters were mere calumnies, that we were extremely displeased to see constantly renewed these audacious attacks against the honour of a most estimable colleague, and that, therefore, the time had now come to punish the authors of them in a way which would deter people in the future from following their example, a step which is all the more necessary in this country, as we, being Christians, are all judged by the same standard, and on account of that solidarity which here more than elsewhere binds us together. We therefore on this disagreeable occasion offer you our loyal co-operation, and you will not fail to recognize the indispensable necessity, which has also become evident to us, of granting to the calumniator full liberty of producing the proofs which he pretends he possesses to justify his assertion, convinced as I am, and as our above-mentioned colleagues are, that such proofs have no existence, and that he will never be able to make good his allegation.

We trust that you will recognize in this our loyal conduct towards you, our sentiments of solidarity, as well as the esteem which I and each of our colleagues profess towards you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. SCOVASSO

Inclosure 3 in No. 76.

Mr. Matthews to M. Scovasso.

Consulat-Général des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Très cher Collègue et honorable Doyen,

[No date.]

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'envoyer sous la date du 20 courant, avec une copie de la plainte adressée à quelques collègues par le nommé Abdeslam-ben-Mohammed Hala, de Fes.

Votre Excellence a bien voulu me dire, au nom des chers et honorables collègues de Belgique, de France, d'Allemagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, d'Espagne, et de la Suède et la Norvège, qui ont reçu des lettres analogues, que les assertions contenues dans cette lettre les ont peines, étant des calomnies audacieuses contre un collègue, et qu'il faudrait en punir l'auteur, que mes chers et honorables collègues m'offrent leurs concours à cet effet, tout en me recommandant de laisser au calomniateur la pleine liberté d'action pour produire les preuves qu'il prétend avoir.

En premier lieu, je suis sensible à la sollicitude et la sympathie dont votre Excellence et les honorables collègues ont bien voulu me donner les preuves et priez votre Excellence d'être l'interprète de mes sentiments envers eux.

[683]

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Quant à l'auteur de la lettre en question, je suis convaincu (et le langage de la même lettre en fait foi) qu'il n'est qu'un instrument aveugle entre les mains d'un nombre d'hommes sans principe, qui s'en servent pour atteindre leurs buts infâmes de même qu'ils avaient, dans le passé, surpris la bonne foi d'un honorable collègue.

Il y a environ deux mois, son Excellence Sid Mohammed Torres m'envoya un jeune Marocain nommé El Arby-ben-Gilalli-et-Abasa, qui se plaignait de ce que le nommé Abalam Halu avait en qualité de tuteur dépossédé la famille de Gilalli Elabassi de tous leurs biens mobiliers et immobiliers et accusait Halu de détournement et d'avoir emprisonné leur père. En présence d'aussi graves accusations j'ai écrit à Halu de se rendre immédiatement devant le Cadi à Fes pour répondre au plaignant. Halu, au lieu d'obtempérer à mes ordres, est venu à Tanger pour me prier d'intervenir en sa faveur et d'étouffer l'affaire.

Pendant son séjour à Tanger, des réclamations nombreuses ont été présentées contre Halu, et celui-ci, voyant que je n'entendais pas d'arranger l'affaire de la famille Gilalli Elabassi autrement que par la voie judiciaire, ainsi qu'il me fut demandé par son Excellence Sid Torres une deuxième fois, Halu s'est adressé à l'asile de tous les malfaiteurs connu sous le nom El-Minzal, où les lettres que votre Excellence et les autres honorables collègues ont reçues furent rédigées et écrites.

Tout en étant prêt à suivre le conseil que votre Excellence veut bien me donner, il m'incombe avant tout de faire justice à qui de droit; ainsi Halu pourra, tout en répondant aux réclamations portées contre lui, produire les preuves qu'il prétend avoir, dans un délai qui lui sera accordé.

Sans doute votre Excellence est informée de la demeure de cet individu, demeure où il attendra la réponse à sa lettre; ainsi je prie votre Excellence de lui assurer que je ne le poursuivrai pas pour ses calomnies, avant qu'il n'aura tout le temps nécessaire de produire les preuves à l'appui de son dire.

Que votre Excellence daigne agréer, &c.

(Signé)

F. A. MATTHEWS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 76.

M. Scovasso to Mr. Matthews

Monsieur et cher Collègue,

Tanger, le 26 Août, 1886.

J'AI communiqué à nos honorables collègues d'Allemagne, de Belgique, d'Espagne, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Suède et Norvège la lettre, sans date, que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, et que j'ai reçue le 22 courant vers le soir, et tous nous vous remercions de nous avoir déclaré que vous êtes disposé à suivre notre conseil en accordant au sujet Marocain, Abdalam Halu, liberté complète pour présenter ses prétendues justifications. Du reste, nous étions persuadés d'avance que vous étiez pénétré, comme nous le sommes nous-mêmes, de l'importance de ne mettre aucun empêchement, mais, au contraire, d'accorder à l'audacieux accusateur toutes les facilités possibles pour justifier ses accusations.

J'ai entendu dire qu'il désire de se rendre à Fes pour y retirer les documents justificatifs qu'il prétend avoir déposés chez une personne de sa confiance, et comme il est possible que cela soit un prétexte pour s'éloigner de Tanger dans le but d'échapper à la juste et sévère punition qu'il aurait méritée, il conviendrait de le faire accompagner par quelques soldats du Gouvernement Chérifien avec ordre de le reconduire à Tanger, après qu'il sera resté deux jours à Fes, car il me semble que deux jours sont plus que suffisants pour retirer les documents qu'il va chercher, si toutefois il les possède.

Si vous partagez l'opinion de nos honorables collègues nous pourrions, chacun de nous, envoyer, avec les soldats du Pacha, un de nos soldats pour accompagner l'Halu afin de mieux s'assurer de sa personne, et je suis autorisé par mes collègues à vous dire que nous sommes prêts à le faire.

Vous comprendrez, M. le Consul-Général, qu'il est indispensable que le départ de l'Halu ait lieu sans perte de temps, et même il eût été désirable que cela se fût fait dès le premier jour de l'accusation afin d'éviter de s'exposer à la critique de l'opinion publique, car plus on retarde et plus on s'y expose.

Dans votre lettre vous me priez de communiquer à Halu les décisions que vous avez prises à son égard. Je regrette de ne pouvoir me conformer au désir que vous m'exprimez, car ni moi, ni aucun de mes collègues, ne veut se mettre en communication

quelconque avec un individu qui a porté une accusation contre le Représentant d'une Puissance étrangère; du reste, j'ignore même où se trouve Halu, et je ne sais de l'endroit où il séjourne que les indications vagues que vous m'avez faites vous-mêmes à ce sujet. Il me semble qu'aucun de nous, mais vous seul, avez qualité pour faire des communications au dit Halu.

Je dois vous prévenir que d'accord avec nos honorables collègues d'Allemagne, de Belgique, d'Espagne, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Suède et Norvège, j'ai communiqué personnellement à M. le Ministre Torres copie de la lettre que nous avons reçue d'Abdalam Halu, et son Excellence m'a déclaré que le dit individu étant redevenu sujet Marocain, ayant renoncé à la protection Américaine. Alors je lui ai demandé s'il était disposé, dans le cas où il serait nécessaire, de le faire accompagner à Fes pour retirer les documents justificatifs de l'accusation portée contre vous; il m'a répondu que jusqu'à présent il ne lui avait été présenté aucune plainte à ce sujet.

Agréer, &c.

(Signé)

S. SCOVASSO.

Inclosure 5 in No. 76.

Mr. Matthews to M. Scovasso

Consulat-Général des Etats-Unis, Tanger,
le 27 Août, 1886.

Honorable Doyen et très cher Collègue,

JE m'empresse de répondre à la lettre que votre Excellence me fait l'honneur de m'adresser sous la date du 26 courant, en la priant d'abord d'excuser l'omission de la date à ma lettre du 21 du même, omission que je prie votre Excellence de rectifier.

En ce qui concerne l'Arabe (ex-protégé Américain) Abdalam-el-Halu, j'ai l'honneur de répondre que malgré mon plus vif désir de suivre les sages conseils que votre Excellence et d'autres honorables collègues veulent bien me donner, conseils dont je suis reconnaissant, il m'est impossible de me conformer à la suggestion de faire accompagner cet individu jusqu'à Fes par des soldats des diverses Légations ou de ce Consulat.

Agir de la sorte serait, à mon avis, fournir au calomniateur une espèce de garde d'honneur, qui donnerait un air d'importance à un incident qui devrait être traité avec la plus profonde mépris. Du reste, il est incontestable que toute démarche solennelle faite par le Corps Diplomatique tend à encourager les conspirateurs, qui ont instigué les actes d'Halu, et les mène à croire que leur influence est suffisamment forte pour faire agir cet honorable corps dans le sens qui leur plaît.

Tout le respect que j'entretiens pour l'opinion publique ne me fera jamais agir de façon à faire croire que je la redoute au point d'oublier ma dignité personnelle et de Représentant, étant donné que ma bonne volonté servira aux malveillants de prétexte pour faire croire qu'ils ont réussi à me faire subir une enquête par mes collègues.

Il est regrettable que votre Excellence et les autres honorables collègues ne sachent pas où se trouve El-Halu, d'autant plus que son Excellence le Ministre du Sultan, à qui j'ai adressé mes demandes répétées de faire chercher El-Halu par l'autorité locale, ne répond évasivement au lieu de se conformer à mes vœux.

Par ces motifs, malgré mon désir de faciliter à cet homme tous les moyens raisonnables pour se procurer et produire les preuves qu'il prétend avoir, je me heurte contre toutes sortes d'obstacles, et cela m'oblige à attendre le cours des événements et me réservant tous mes droits d'action. Si par l'intermédiaire de ceux qui informent votre Excellence du désir d'El-Halu, de se rendre à Fes, elle pourrait se fixer sur sa demeure, il n'y aura pas de difficulté à assurer à cet individu la garantie nécessaire, et une escorte des soldats du Pacha afin d'arriver au résultat que je désire autant que votre Excellence.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé)

F. A. MATTHEWS

Inclosure 6 in No. 76.

M. Scovasso to Mr. Matthews.

Monsieur et cher Collègue,

Tanger, le 30 Août, 1886.

LA lecture de votre lettre du 27 Août nous cause le plus profond étonnement et nous démontre clairement que le sentiment qui a dicté notre démarche et les offres que nous avons faites n'a pas été appréciée par vous à sa juste valeur [sic].

Jamais la pensée ne nous est venue de nous ériger en tribunal, mais seulement de prêter notre concours loyal à un collègue dont l'honneur est attaqué.

Notre but n'étant point atteint, nous n'avons plus dès lors à nous préoccuper vis-à-vis de vous de cet incident fort regrettable. Seulement, au nom de nos honorables collègues et au mien, je tiens à vous exprimer que nous ne partageons pas votre manière d'apprécier l'incident en question; il n'est pas, en effet, dans notre opinion de ceux que l'on doit traiter, comme vous le dites, avec le plus profond mépris.

La mauvaise impression d'un incident de cette nature rejait indirectement sur le Corps Diplomatique, et nous nous plaisons à espérer que le Gouvernement Marocain, soucieux de faire respecter le prestige des Agents étrangers accrédités auprès de lui, tiendra à ne pas laisser cette affaire sans lui donner la suite qu'elle comporte.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) S. SCOVASSO.

Inclosure 7 in No. 76.

M. Scovasso to Cid Hadj Mohammed T...

(Traduction)

(Compliments d'usage.)

Tanger, le 31 Août, 1886.

JE vous ai communiqué la lettre d'El-Halu. Comme cette affaire ne peut pas rester sans suite, puisqu'elle peut porter atteinte à tout le Corps Diplomatique, et que d'autre part M. le Consul-Général d'Amérique, par une lettre en date du 27 Août, avait déclaré que El-Halu est redevenu sujet Marocain, au nom de mes honorables collègues d'Allemagne, de Belgique, d'Espagne, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Suède et Norvège, qui ont reçu comme moi la lettre d'El-Halu, et à mon nom, je vous prie de me faire connaître ce que vous comptez faire à ce sujet.

Paix.

(Signé) S. SCOVASSO.

Inclosure 8 in No. 76.

Mr. Matthews to M. Scovasso.

Consulat-Général des États-Unis, Tanger,
le 31 Août, 1886.

Honorable Doyen et très cher Collègue,

PAR la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date d'hier, j'apprends avec peine que ma réponse du 27 courant a été mal comprise.

Loin de moi soit l'idée de supposer pour un moment que votre Excellence, et les autres honorables collègues au nom desquels votre Excellence veut bien m'écrire, voulaient s'ériger en tribunal, ma lettre n'a dit que ceci: "Étant donné que ma bonne volonté servira aux malveillants de prétexte pour faire croire qu'ils ont réussi à me faire subir une enquête par mes collègues." De cela à l'interprétation qui a été donnée par la lettre de votre Excellence du 30 courant il y a bien loin, et je tiens à constater ce fait.

Je suis reconnaissant, je le répète encore une fois, du concours loyal et des sages conseils qui m'ont été offerts par mes honorables collègues, et si malheureusement je ne partage pas leur avis sur certains points, c'est qu'en ma qualité du plus intéressé, j'ai des raisons puissantes pour croire que l'Arabe El-Halu n'est ni le plus coupable, ni le plus acharné des conspirateurs contre mon honneur. Il n'est qu'un instrument aveugle entre les mains d'autres personnes que mes honorables collègues connaîtront en temps voulu. Ainsi, puisque mes honorables collègues m'ont démontré tant de bienveillance, je ne manquerai pas de solliciter leur puissant concours en temps et lieu opportun, une fois que j'aurais mis à nu le complot ourdi contre moi; car du moment qu'un attentat de cette nature rejait indirectement sur le Corps Diplomatique, ce

serait un [sic] triste répara-t-on à lui faire que de punir un misérable ignorant, qui aurait été induit par de promesses faites dans la détresse à servir d'instrument aux vrais coupables en écrivant ce qui est universellement reconnu comme faux d'un bout à l'autre. Je tiens à découvrir les vrais coupables, afin de donner à l'honorable Corps Diplomatique la satisfaction éclatante qui lui est due.

Dans ma dernière lettre j'ai eu l'honneur de suggérer à votre Excellence la possibilité de découvrir la demeure d'El-Halu par ses intermédiaires avec votre Excellence, puisque les autorités locales ne veulent pas se prêter à cela, aussi il n'y a point à s'étonner si, en présence de si peu de bonne volonté, je m'abstiens de porter aucune plainte au Ministre du Sultan.

Avant d'en référer au Gouvernement Marocain, je vous serais reconnaissant de faire lire la lettre d'El-Halu par des savants Arabes; votre Excellence sera alors convaincue qu'elle a été écrite à la dictée d'un Européen, et votre Excellence alors [sic] verra qu'il ne suffit pas de punir un malheureux [sic] qui a été mal conseillé en épargnant les vrais coupables.

Que votre Excellence me permette de répéter que je serais excessivement désolé si ma détermination, fondée comme elle l'est sur les faits exposés ci-dessus soit comprise comme manque d'appréciation à sa juste valeur de la bienveillance que mes honorables collègues se sont unis à votre Excellence pour me témoigner.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) F. A. MATTHEWS.

Inclosure 9 in No. 76.

Mr. Matthews to M. de Reglia.

Consulat-Général des États-Unis d'Amérique,
Tanger, le 6 Septembre, 1886.

Monsieur et très cher Collègue,

AYANT reçu du Doyen du Corps Diplomatique certaines communications au nom et au nom des Représentants de Belgique, de France, d'Allemagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, d'Espagne, et de la Suède et Norvège, relativement à l'audacieuse calomnie portée contre moi par un Arabe nommé Abdelham El-Halu, de Fez, j'ai été surpris de voir que les noms des honorables collègues de Portugal et de l'Autriche-Hongrie n'étaient pas mentionnés dans les nombreuses lettres que le Doyen m'a fait adresser.

Se trouvant difficile de m'expliquer les motifs qui ont pu causer l'absence des noms de ces deux collègues de toutes les lettres reçues par moi concernant cet incident, je me permets de vous adresser la présente pour vous prier de me dire si vous avez reçu la communication d'El-Halu comme les autres collègues et dans ce cas comment se fait-il que le Doyen ne vous ait pas invité à assister aux réunions qu'il a eu devoir convoquer à ce sujet.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) F. A. MATTHEWS.

Vu; soit transmis en original à l'honorable Doyennat [sic] du Corps Diplomatique avec prière de vouloir bien répondre directement à M. le Consul-Général sur les demandes qui l'intéressent et sur lesquelles je ne suis pas à même de l'informer.

Le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie,

(L.S.)

F. DE REGLIA.

Tanger, le 14 Septembre, 1886.

Inclosure 10 in No. 76.

M. de Reglia to M. Scovasso.

M. le Ministre,

Tanger, le 14 Septembre, 1886.

CI-JOINT j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer en original une lettre de M. le Consul-Général et Agent Diplomatique des États-Unis d'Amérique, avec prière de vouloir bien répondre tout directement à l'intéressé, vu que moi-même j'ignore les motifs de mon exclusion des réunions mentionnées dans la note ci-incluse, motifs que d'ailleurs j'approuve à priori, attendu que je me serais en tout cas abstenu d'une démarche collective au sujet du libelle signé El-Halu, parce que d'après

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mon humble opinion (erronée peut-être) une intervention quelconque dans cette affaire ne me paraissait pas indispensable.

Veillez excuser, M. le Ministre, le retard de la lettre Matthews, datée du 6 Septembre, mais je suis à vous importuner avec une lettre de transmission de ma part, et je ne l'aurais fait pas même aujourd'hui si je n'y étais contraint par des demandes réitérées auxquelles je ne saurais répondre.

Je regretterais vivement si la franchise avec laquelle je me suis permis de me prononcer dans l'affaire El-Halu pourrait paraître comme une critique des démarches que l'honorable Corps Diplomatique de Tanger a voulu prendre—me absente—à propos du libelle El-Halu; cette idée ne s'est jamais formée dans ma pensée.

Je viens d'entrer à peine dans cette haute branche de la carrière purement diplomatique et je suis arrivé hier pour ainsi dire à Tanger. Combien j'ai besoin d'apprendre de vous, M. le Doyen, et des autres Ministres, et combien il me faut pour parvenir à l'auteur [sic] de leurs connaissances, et même alors je n'oserais pas de critiquer une résolution prise par la majorité du Corps Diplomatique, auquel je suis fier de pouvoir appartenir.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) P. DE REGLIA.

Inclusure 11 in No. 76.

M. Scorsano to the Foreign Representatives at Tangier.

Messieurs, Tanger, le 15 Septembre, 1886.
J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer les deux lettres ci-jointes, que j'ai reçues avant-hier au soir.

Je vous propose de nous réunir à ce sujet le 17 courant, à 10 heures du matin, au Décanat.

Si, par suite d'un empêchement quelconque, quelqu'un d'entre vous ne pourrait assister ce jour à la date indiquée ci-dessus, je vous serai obligé de vouloir bien me le faire savoir à temps afin de pouvoir fixer un autre jour pour notre réunion.

Agréés, &c.
(Signé) S. SCORSAO.

Je ne manquerai pas de me rendre à la réunion du 17, à 10 heures du matin.
(Signé) TESTA.

Idem.
(Signé) REGLIA.

Idem.
(Signé) BARON WHETHALL.

Idem.
(Signé) SOLIVERR.

Idem.
(Signé) FÉRAUD.

Idem.
(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Des motifs que je crois inutile de citer me font abstenir d'assister à la réunion de l'honorable Corps Diplomatique pour cette affaire. Si dans le passé j'ai entretenu une correspondance à ce sujet avec l'honorable Doyen, c'était dans le but de contrecarrer les intentions des instigateurs et complices d'El-Halu qui voulaient, sans doute, s'en servir pour lancer le poison, et le faire disparaître après. Dans mes lettres à l'honorable Doyen, j'exprimais le désir de connaître où se trouvait l'individu en question, dont l'adresse pourrait ne pas être ignorée par ceux qui en avaient reçu les communications, puisque celles-ci avaient été remises par les employés de M. Perdicaris, fait qui a été porté à ma connaissance appuyé par des preuves officielles. Une fois que la non-réussite d'un deuxième complot m'a procuré le moyen de découvrir l'habitation d'El-Halu, j'ai fait ce qui m'incombait en le remettant entre les mains des autorités locales, seules que je considère compétentes à servir dans une affaire de cette nature.

(Signé) F. A. MATTHEWS.

J'assisterai à la réunion, déclarant à l'avance que je partage l'opinion de notre honorable collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie dans cette affaire.

(Signé) COLAÇO.

Je m'empresse de venir à la réunion à laquelle nous a convié notre honorable Doyen.

(Signé) CASSEL.

Inclusure 12 in No. 76.

Procès-verbal de la Séance tenue à la Légation d'Italie le 17 Septembre, 1886.

Étaient présents :

Tous les Représentants étrangers, à l'exception de M. le Représentant des États-Unis d'Amérique.

M. le Ministre d'Italie, Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, prend la parole, et fait la narration des faits qui se sont produits à la suite de la remise aux Représentants étrangers de la lettre du sujet Marocain, El-Halu. Il dit qu'il ressort d'une lettre de M. le Représentant d'Autriche-Hongrie, et de Mr Matthews également, qu'il s'est produit un malentendu qu'il s'agit d'éclaircir et de dissiper; c'est ce qui fait l'objet de cette réunion.

" Cette lettre d'El-Halu," dit le Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, " contenant des accusations contre notre collègue d'Amérique, a été remise simultanément aux différentes Légations sans qu'aucun des Représentants ait pu savoir par qui elle avait été apportée. J'ai eu à son sujet, lorsque l'occasion s'en est présentée, des pourparlers et des échanges de vues avec quelques-uns de mes collègues qui, comme moi, ont qualifié la lettre ' El-Halu ' d'attentatoire à la dignité du Corps Diplomatique dans la personne d'un de ses membres.

" Afin de mettre un terme à de semblables procédés, qui se reproduisent trop souvent à l'égard du Représentant des États-Unis d'Amérique, et ne laissent pas d'émouvoir le public aussi bien au Maroc que dans différents pays Européens, nous avons entre nous décidé d'offrir à notre collègue, Mr. Matthews, notre concours amical.

" J'ai donc fait auprès de M. le Consul-Général des États-Unis d'Amérique une démarche entièrement officieuse pour lui offrir, en mon nom et au nom de plusieurs de mes collègues, notre concours ' toujours officieux ' auprès de l'autorité Mini-

" Une correspondance officieuse et amicale a été, à la suite de cette démarche, engagée avec notre collègue d'Amérique. Toutefois, comme Mr Matthews, dans sa dernière lettre à M. Reglia, en date du 6 Septembre, semble vouloir donner un caractère officiel à nos offres amicales, j'ai cru indispensable, en ma qualité de Doyen, de réunir le Corps Diplomatique, afin de bien établir, au contraire, je le répète, le caractère essentiellement privé et amical de la démarche que plusieurs de mes collègues ont entreprise avec moi d'un commun accord.

" M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie ne se trouvant pas encore à Tanger lorsque la lettre ' El Hali ' a été écrite: ignorant de notre côté si, à son arrivée ou lui en ayant aussi adressé un exemplaire lui-même ne nous en ayant pas parlé, nous n'avons pas voulu l'en entretenir pour éviter l'apparence d'avoir contribué à ébruiter le contenu de la lettre ' d'El-Halu '.

" Quant à M. le Ministre de Portugal, personne de nous n'ayant eu l'occasion de le rencontrer, et ignorant s'il avait reçu un exemplaire de la lettre en question, nous n'avons pas davantage songé par la même raison de discrétion à la mettre au courant de notre démarche officieuse.

" Si je vous ai tous réunis aujourd'hui, Messieurs et chers collègues, c'est donc afin de bien préciser la nature des démarches dont je viens de parler.

" Elles ont été et ne pouvaient être qu'amicales et officieuses! Mr Matthews a fait erreur en leur attribuant un caractère officiel, qu'elles ne pouvaient et ne sauraient en aucun cas avoir.

" D'ailleurs, les réunions que j'ai eues à ce sujet avec certains de mes collègues ont si peu revêtu le caractère officiel, que M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et M. le Ministre de Portugal n'y assistaient pas, qu'un Secrétaire n'y a jamais été convoqué, et qu'aucun procès-verbal n'en a fixé les pourparlers."

Les Représentants prennent la parole à tour de rôle et s'expriment dans les mêmes termes.

M. le Ministre de Portugal insiste sur ce point, à savoir, qu'en tout état de cause il ne se considère pas comme autorisé à offrir "même son concours amical" à Mr. Matthews dans une question n'intéressant que le seul Consulat d'Amérique.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie ayant refusé quant à lui de recevoir la lettre en question, aussitôt qu'il en a eu pris connaissance, et la considérant par conséquent comme nulle et non avenue, informe ses collègues qu'il ne lui conviendrait pas d'intervenir en aucune manière dans cette question.

Tous les autres Représentants expliquent à nouveau par des raisons de solidarité et de dignité de corps le sentiment qui les a fait agir; ils déclarent ne pas pouvoir accepter l'argumentation de Mr. Matthews, consignée dans sa note au bas de la Circulaire du Doyen en date du 15 Septembre, comme étant de nature à faire supposer de leur part une intervention officielle dans cette affaire; en un mot, ils en appellent à la correspondance échangée, d'où leur intention d'immixtion purement amicale et officieuse ressort d'une manière tout à fait catégorique!

Ils considèrent en conséquence l'incident comme clos, se réservant de soumettre à leurs Gouvernements respectifs, si toutefois il y a lieu, toutes les pièces relatives à cette affaire afin qu'il ne puisse subsister de doute à ce sujet, et affirment leur intention formelle de garder à partir de ce jour la réserve la plus absolue vis-à-vis du Consul-Général d'Amérique, du moment que l'on a voulu prêter à leur intervention un caractère qu'elle n'a jamais eu et qu'elle ne saurait légitimement revêtir.

Vu et approuvé.
(Signé) TESTA (German Minister).

Vu; je me permets de faire observer que le libelle El-Halu a été remis à MM. les Représentants le 17 Août, c'est-à-dire, trois jours après mon arrivée ici, et que le 18 Août nous étions tous réunis à l'occasion de la fête anniversaire de Sa Majesté Apostolique.

(Signé) DE REGLIA (Austrian Chargé d'Affaires).

Je ne puis signer ce procès-verbal qu'après y avoir vu reproduites les idées que j'ai exprimées dans la réunion, à savoir, que malgré que je reconnais la bonne volonté avec laquelle l'honorable Doyen et MM. les membres du Corps Diplomatique qui ont reçu des lettres du sage Marocain El-Halu, ont été poussés dans cette affaire en faveur de l'honorable Représentant des Etats-Uns d'Amérique, je reconnais aussi que la lettre d'El-Halu n'est autre chose qu'un instrument ourdi dans le but de surprendre la bonne foi de notre Doyen, et des membres accompagnés indiqués dans les lettres du Doyen à Mr. Matthews, et de faire du fracas au sein du Corps Diplomatique contre cet honorable collègue, que moi je me trouve dans une situation tout à fait différente de celle de mes collègues par le simple fait de ne pas avoir reçu la lettre d'El-Halu diffamant le caractère du Représentant des Etats-Uns d'Amérique, fait qui seul à lui me prouve que la lettre calomnieuse n'est pas d'El-Halu, mais bien l'œuvre du sujet Américain, Mr. Perdicaris, l'ami acharné de son bienfaiteur et son Représentant, Mr. Matthews; car Mr. Perdicaris a, dans le temps, coupé les rapports officiels qu'il m'avait fait entretenir lors de son apparente amitié envers Mr. Matthews, par la seule circonstance que je n'aurais pas admis l'ingérence d'un ami de Mr. Perdicaris dans les affaires entre moi et l'autorité locale! Mr. Perdicaris, sachant comment j'aurais reçu la lettre de son instrument El-Halu, s'est abstenu de me l'envoyer.

En témoignant mes idées là-dessus je déclare enfin que l'affaire El-Halu n'appartient qu'à Mr. Matthews, dans sa qualité de Représentant des Etats-Uns d'Amérique, en entente avec le Gouvernement Marocain; que Mr. Matthews, assez juste d'ailleurs et investi d'une complète autorité, n'a pas besoin du concours de ses collègues pour détruire les calomnies portées contre lui de cette façon, et que toute espèce d'intervention de la part du Corps Diplomatique dans une affaire de ce genre, serait, à mon avis, incompétente et même contraire à la liberté d'action des Représentants des Puissances dans l'accomplissement des affaires qui les concernent vis-à-vis le Gouvernement Chérifien, ou de leurs administrés.

(Signé) COLAÇO (Portuguese Minister).

J'approuve le contenu du procès-verbal.
(Signé) CASSEL (Swedish Consul-General).

Vu et approuvé le texte du procès-verbal.
(Signé) FÉRAUD (French Minister).

Vu et approuvé le texte du procès-verbal.
(Signé) BARON WHETNALL (Belgian Minister).

Tout à fait d'accord avec le procès-verbal.
(Signé) FOO. SOLIVERES (Spanish Chargé d'Affaires).

Vu et approuvé le procès-verbal.
(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Vu et approuvé le texte du procès-verbal.
(Signé) ET. SCOVASSO (Italian Minister).

Vu et approuvé le texte du procès-verbal.
(Signé) TESTA.

Après avoir rectifié les circonstances de fait et retro pour ce qui me regarde, et en constatant que M. le Ministre Plénipotentiaire du Portugal a, en effet, exprimé à la séance du 27 Septembre courant les idées susénoncées et qui ne sont pas reproduites dans le procès-verbal, j'en approuve pour tout le restant son [sic] texte.

(Signé) DE REGLIA.

Vu, sûr que tous les membres du Corps Diplomatique constateront comme M. le Représentant d'Autriche-Hongrie, que les idées que j'ai exprimées dans la réunion que je viens d'énoncer de nouveau n'ont pas été reproduites dans le procès-verbal, je prie notre digne Doyen de vouloir bien remettre à nos honorables collègues ma demande pour que les idées susdites soient considérées appartenantes [sic] au procès-verbal.

(Signé) COLAÇO.

Je fais circuler le procès-verbal une autre fois pour répondre au désir de M. le Ministre de Portugal.

(Signé) ET. SCOVASSO.

Tanger, le 25 Septembre, 1886

La réunion du 17 Septembre avait pour but d'éclaircir un malentendu. Comme M. le Représentant d'Amérique avait pensé en dernier lieu que c'était le "Corps Diplomatique" qui lui offrait son appui et qu'il voulait savoir pourquoi MM. les Représentants d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Portugal n'avaient pas pris part à la démarche amicale qui avait été faite auprès de lui, il importait d'établir par un document officiel que le Corps Diplomatique, comme corps, n'avait jamais eu l'idée d'intervenir dans l'affaire El-Halu, mais que quelques Représentants avaient spontanément et individuellement offert leurs services à Mr. Matthews pour mettre fin aux attaques dont il est continuellement l'objet. Voilà le but de la réunion du 17 et voilà ce que le procès-verbal de réunion exprime en termes clairs.

Lorsque j'ai reçu communication des observations de M. le Ministre de Portugal sur le procès-verbal, j'ai cru pouvoir m'abstenir d'y répondre et j'ai pensé que M. le Ministre de Portugal se contenterait de savoir que ses observations annexées au procès-verbal seraient incorporées aux archives du Doyenat. Mais puisque M. le Ministre de Portugal revient sur la question, je constate:

Qu'à la réunion il a fait les observations mentionnées par lui au bas du procès-verbal, qu'il lui a été répondu par moi et par d'autres Représentants qu'il sortait de la question, que nous n'avions pas à nous occuper de ses relations avec un citoyen Américain, que nous nous trouvions en présence d'une lettre diffamatoire, signée "El-Halu," et que c'était au Juge d'Instruction et pas à nous de rechercher les auteurs intellectuels de la lettre.

Pour ma part je proteste énergiquement contre la tendance de vouloir maintenant substituer "le Corps Diplomatique," à un offre loyal et personnel que j'ai fait au Représentant d'Amérique. Je ne laisserai pas déplacer la question.

(Signé) TESTA.

Vu
(Signé) REGLIA.

Je partage complètement la manière de voir de M. le Ministre d'Allemagne et je me joins à sa protestation.

(Signé) BARON WHEHNALL.

Et moi aussi.

(Signé) FÉRAUD.

Idem.

(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Je me joins aussi à la protestation de M. le Ministre d'Allemagne en m'associant tout à fait à son opinion.

(Signé) F. SOLIVERES.

Idem.

(Signé) CASSEL.

Idem.

Et j'ajouterais que puisque M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie croit avoir rectifié les circonstances de fait, je lui demande la permission d'observer —

1. Qu'il est dans l'erreur lorsqu'il pense que tous les Représentants ont reçu le 17 Août la lettre d'El-Halu, et il est de fait que cette lettre a été écrite avant l'arrivée à Tanger de M. Reglia.

2. Que mon honorable collègue qui avait reçu la dite lettre avant le jour où le Corps Diplomatique s'est trouvé réuni pour fêter l'anniversaire de Sa Majesté Apostolique, n'en a fait part à aucun de ses collègues, il ne doit donc pas s'étonner si ses collègues ont gardé envers lui la même réserve qu'il a gardé à leur égard.

(Signé) SCOVASSO.

Je vois que M. le Ministre d'Allemagne et les autres honorables collègues qui se rallient à sa manière de voir et à sa protestation, se trompent en croyant que j'ai voulu déplacer la question, et je n'ai pour cela qu'à faire appel à mes déclarations, desquelles il résulte que ma situation est tout à fait différente de celle de mes collègues; qu'en faisant droit à la bonne volonté qu'ils ont témoignée envers M. le Représentant des États-Unis d'Amérique, j'ai dû exprimer franchement, en parlant pour la première fois sur cette affaire, mes impressions tendentes [sic] à expliquer que les attaques dont ce collègue a été continuellement l'objet n'ont qu'une seule source, celle du sujet Américain dont le sujet Marocain El-Halu a été l'instrument; et j'ai indiqué précisément ces faits comme éclaircissement utile à tous mes collègues dans le bon vouloir qui les animait à l'égard de votre honorable collègue d'Amérique vis-à-vis d'une question que je considère toujours comme ne pouvant admettre pas même notre concours amical et personnel poussé par les meilleurs desirs, sans que ce concours se transforme immédiatement en interférence.

Où voit-on que mes idées, que les impressions que j'ai témoignées et que j'ai confirmées, puissent renfermer le moindre méconnaissance de la bonne volonté de mes honorables collègues en faveur de M. le Représentant des États-Unis d'Amérique? Je ne suis revenu sur aucune question; j'ai demandé purement et simplement, dans l'exercice de mon droit, que mes idées, émises dans la réunion, fussent considérées faisant partie du procès-verbal. Mes honorables collègues veulent bien constater que je les ai exprimées, cela suffit.

Quant à leur protestation, je n'en vois nullement la base, et à mon tour, je proteste énergiquement contre l'interprétation erronée qu'ils semblent donner à mes paroles.

(Signé) COLAÇO.

N'ayant pas donné une interprétation erronée aux paroles de M. le Ministre de Portugal, son protêt ne me concerne pas.

(Signé) TESTA.

Tout en remerciant M. le Ministre d'Italie de vouloir bien m'apprendre qu'il ait de science* positive et pertinemment connu la lettre El-Halu a été écrite avant mon arrivée ici, j'ose le prier de me permettre de lui faire observer que cette circonstance ne change rien à ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de déclarer à la séance du 17 Septembre, c'est-à-dire, que moi aussi j'avais reçu simultanément aux autres Légations [sic] la dite lettre. Quant à la seconde rectification, je voulais simplement constater qu'après le 17 Août, M. M. les Représentants ont eu l'occasion de se rencontrer

(Signé) REGLIA.

* In the original this word was indistinctly written, and was read as source.—H. E. W.

J'abonde dans le sens de ce qu'écrit l'honorable Ministre d'Allemagne. Quant à l'observation de M. de Reglia, j'avoue ne pas la comprendre.

(Signé) BARON WHEHNALL.

De même.

(Signé) FÉRAUD.

Idem.

(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Idem.

(Signé) SOLIVERES.

Je suis du même avis.

(Signé) CASSEL.

Et moi j'abonde dans ce que j'ai dit

(Signé) COLAÇO.

J'abonde dans le sens de ce qu'écrit le Ministre d'Allemagne.

Je suis en même temps dans la nécessité d'ajouter quelques mots au sujet de la dernière observation de M. de Reglia.

M. Reglia me fait dire que je suis de source positive et pertinemment connu la lettre El-Halu a été écrite avant son arrivée ici. Or, ce que j'ai écrit est simplement ceci:—"Il est de fait que cette lettre a été écrite avant l'arrivée à Tanger de M. Reglia." En effet, la lettre est datée du 11 Août, et M. Reglia est arrivé le 14.

Je ne sais si M. Reglia a voulu insinuer que j'étais de connivence avec le rédacteur de la pièce en question. Les mots dont il vient de se servir pourraient le laisser supposer. Je suis donc dans mon droit en lui demandant de s'expliquer clairement à ce sujet.

(Signé) SCOVASSO.

Vu

(Signé) TESTA.

Je regrette que ma manière incorrecte d'écrire le Français rende d'un côté incompréhensibles mes annotations, mises au bas de ce procès-verbal, qui paraît prendre les allures d'une polémique, mais ce que je regrette encore plus vivement c'est que les mots dont je me suis servi puissent laisser supposer que c'était dans mon intention d'intercaler dans cette affaire—déjà assez malentendue pour moi—des insinuations malveillantes encore contre M. le Ministre d'Italie, comme s'il aurait été de connivence avec le libelliste El-Halu. Loin de moi cette affreuse idée! Et j'ai hésité un instant de déclarer tout hautement que jamais une pensée si coupable soit surgie dans mon esprit. Après cette déclaration, que j'ai tâché de rendre aussi claire que possible, qu'il me soit permis de donner en détail les explications ultérieures. En partant du principe que pour déclarer une chose comme un fait positif, il fallait admettre qu'on la sache pertinemment et qu'on ait cette notion de science positive, et non de source positive—comme on me fait dire—et il y a pourtant le point sur l'i—en partant donc de ce principe, j'ai fait tout simplement une paraphrase et nullement une insinuation malveillante en me servant des mots "pertinemment" et "science positive." J'ai supposé que la date qu'on appose à une lettre ne prouve pas à l'évidence quelle ait été écrite ce jour-là, d'ailleurs, la lettre El-Halu adressée à moi, et lue le 17 Août, par son Excellence le Gouverneur de Tanger, avait pour toute date l'année de l'Hégire 1303, sans indiquer le jour du mois; je me croyais donc obligé à remercier M. le Ministre d'Italie de m'avoir appris qu'on savait à quoi s'en tenir à propos de la date tant contestée de la lettre en question.

Je clos cette annotation en répétant que je n'ai jamais eu la coupable idée de soulever des insinuations malveillantes contre M. le Ministre d'Italie, le Commandeur Scovasso, pour lequel je professe la plus haute estime, et que je prie de vouloir bien accueillir l'hommage de mon profond respect.

(Signé) DE REGLIA.

Vu:

(Signé) BARON WHEHNALL.

FÉRAUD.

SOLIVERES.

CASSEL.

HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 77.

Consul-General Sir R. L. Playfair to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Algiers, October 15, 1886.

IT may interest your Lordship to know that one of the sons of the Chérif of Wazan, a young man 18 years of age, lately in the "Lycée" here, has engaged himself as a "Spahi" in the French army, and is stationed at Medeah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 78.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received October 20.)

My Lord,

Almwick Castle, October 18, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant,* which reached me on the 14th, transmitting, in original, a letter from Mr. Donald Mackenzie, dated the 18th September, relating to the Sultan of Morocco's late expedition into the Soos country, and directing me to offer any remarks I may have to make thereon.

The account given by Mr. Mackenzie of the expedition has evidently been taken from the "Réveil du Maroc," a paper published at Tangier in the French language, which contained letters addressed, as I am informed, to the editor by a Frenchman who accompanied the expedition, and is supposed to have been an agent of some French Company, which had entertained hopes of bringing about an understanding with the inhabitants of Soos for the cession of a port.

The narrative of atrocities alleged to have been committed by Moorish troops is, I am assured by a British subject who also accompanied the expedition, greatly exaggerated, but I have not received authentic information upon the subject since the arrival of the Sultan with his army at the city of Morocco.

No opposition was offered either in 1882 or this year by the inhabitants of Soos to the Sultan's forces during the march southwards to the district of Wad Draa, but, on the contrary, the Chiefs of the Soos tribes sent in their submission, and declared they would aid His Shereefian Majesty in carrying out his project of opening a port at Assaka,† neither does it appear that any outrages were then committed by the Sultan's forces on the inhabitants.

The Great Shereef, or "Murabet," of Soos, Cid Husein, did not present himself or send in his submission to the Sultan, but he directed his son to accompany His Shereefian Majesty during his march, and to obey His Majesty's orders. Cid Husein died before the campaign was brought to a conclusion.

The Sultan appointed Governors in the different districts through which he marched, and these officers were selected from the chief inhabitants of Soos.

The tribe of Ida on Tanan, dwelling in the mountainous districts, after having tendered their submission to the Sultan and accepted the Governor His Majesty had appointed, broke out in revolt and attempted to murder their Governor, who fled, and they attacked the Imperial forces on their return.

This tribe then took refuge with their flocks in the rocky fastnesses of Ida on Tanan. They were attacked by a large force provided with mountain artillery, and were defeated. The troops and wild tribes who accompanied the army were permitted to pillage the rebels, and I have no doubt that atrocities were committed, and that women have been outraged and carried off.

The rumour that the inhabitants who had been engaged by the Sultan to build the port at Assaka had abandoned the works and fled on hearing of these occurrences may be correct, but I have not as yet received any confirmation of this report.

The western coast of Morocco, from Cape Spartel to Wad Draa, has no ports where good shelter for shipping can be found. Agadeer is perhaps the best port. I repeatedly advised the Sultan to reopen Agadeer to trade, which had been closed when Mogador was built in the end of the last century, but His Majesty never engaged, as Mr. Mackenzie asserts, to do so. I consider, however, that it is advisable on every account that the advice given to His Majesty upon this subject should again be urged upon his attention.

* Not printed.

† Near Wad Draa.—J. H. D. H.

Assaka, the site near Wad Draa selected by His Shereefian Majesty for the new port, is, I believe, the same as that which was selected by the Spaniards in ancient times for the port of Santa Cruz la Pequeña,* and had as it may be, as Mr. Mackenzie states, from being exposed, as all the western coast of Morocco is to the roll of the Atlantic, it was probably chosen both by the Spaniards and now by the Sultan from having some kind of shelter or better landing-places than other sites on the coast.

Mr. Mackenzie and his associates in the North African Company naturally object to the opening of this southern port on account of their establishment at Cape Juby.

With regard to the advice which had been tendered to the Sultan through me by Her Majesty's Government in past years respecting the opening of ports on the Soos coast for the purposes of trade and that His Majesty was also advised to establish his authority in the Soos, as the best means of checking the filibustering expeditions of various nations and attempts of adventurers to carry on an illicit trade, giving rise to constant questions of a vexatious character during the last forty years, I beg to refer to numerous past despatches I addressed Her Majesty's Government, and I find no good grounds for altering the opinion I had expressed, that it will be advantageous to British commercial interests, and also tend to check the ambitious territorial projects entertained by other foreign Powers. Such advice I consider should be pressed on the Sultan's notice, and that His Majesty should be counselled, in a friendly manner, to seek to gain the good-will of the inhabitants by conciliatory measures, and to restrain the authorities and forces he may have retained in the Soos, or that may be dispatched there, from the commission of outrages.

Mr. Mackenzie is, as far as I can judge from a very short acquaintance, a sensible, well-informed man, but he is or was an Agent of the North African Company, which now occupies Cape Juby, and he cannot, therefore, be depended on for imparting to Her Majesty's Government unbiased information regarding the Soos, or the proceedings of the Moorish Government.

I return Mr. Mackenzie's letter, upon which I have made in the margin some remarks in pencil.

I observe that this letter was published in the "Chronicle" of the 1st October, 1886.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 79.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. White.

(No. 38.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 20, 1886.

I HAVE to state that a copy of your despatch No. 60, Confidential, of the 22nd September, reporting certain charges of corrupt practices brought against the United States' Consulate at Tangier, and explaining the action taken by the foreign Representatives in the matter, will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Representatives at Washington, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Madrid, and Stockholm for their confidential information, and that I shall be glad to receive your further Report on the case.

I am &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 80.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir L. West†

(No. 210. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 22, 1886.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your confidential information, a copy of a despatch from the British Consul at Tangier,‡ reporting respecting certain charges of corrupt practices which have been brought against the United States' Con-

* Agadeer was called Santa Cruz.—J. H. D. H.

† Also to Lord Vivian No. 69, Mr. Egerton No. 707, Sir E. Mallet (No. 496), Sir J. S. Lumley (No. 272), Sir Clare Ford (No. 10), and Mr. Corbett (No. 21).

‡ No. 16.

sulate in that town, and explaining the action which the foreign Representatives have taken in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH

No. 81.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 40.)

Sir,
I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. Donald Mackenzie,* calling attention to the late expedition of the Sultan of Morocco to the Soos country, together with a copy of a letter from Sir J. D. Hay,† commenting upon Mr Mackenzie's statements, and I should be glad to be favoured with your observations on this correspondence before instructing you in the sense suggested by Sir J. D. Hay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 82.

Sir J. Poncefote to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

Dear Sir J. D. Hay,
BY direction of the Earl of Iddesleigh, I transmit to you herewith, for your observations, a copy of a despatch from our Consul at Tangier,‡ reporting respecting certain charges of corrupt practices brought against the United States' Consulate, and explaining the action taken by the foreign Representatives in Morocco in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE.

No. 83.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons

(No. 724.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 414 of October 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 74.]

No. 84

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 286. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Egerton's No. 500, Confidential, of September 27; Mr. White's No. 58 of September 6; and ditto, No. 59 of September 20, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 40, 50, and 80.]

No. 85.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 278.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 414 of October 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 74.]

* No. 50.

† No. 78.

‡ No. 76.

No. 86.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 104.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 414 of October 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 74.]

No. 87

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Kirby Green

(No. 41.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 414 of October 9, 1886: *ante*, No. 74.]

No. 88

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 42.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul-General Playfair's No. 8 of October 15, 1886: *ante*, No. 77.]

No. 89.

Sir J. Poncefote to Sir R. L. Playfair.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 30, 1886.

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to transmit to you herewith copies of a correspondence which has passed with Messrs. Tweedie the firm of solicitors who are acting on behalf of General Hamuda Benayad, in regard to the claims which that gentleman—who is an English-protected subject domiciled and living at Tunis—has made against the Tunisian Government.*

I am also to inclose, for your information and guidance, a copy of a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris,† instructing him to bring the matter unofficially to the notice of the French Government, and invoke the good offices of M. de Freycinet in the matter.

I am to request that you will take an early opportunity of placing yourself in communication with the Resident-General of Tunis upon this subject, and you will be so good as to report the result to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE

No. 90.

Observations of Sir J. H. Drummond Hay upon Consul White's Despatch No. 60 of September 22, 1886, regarding Corrupt Practices of the United States' Consul, and the Action of Foreign Representatives.—(Received November 2.)

(Confidential)

THE information contained in Mr. White's Report regarding the corrupt practices of the United States' Consul, Mr. Mathews, is, I have good grounds for believing, perfectly correct. In past years I have on more than one occasion reported to Her Majesty's Government the gross irregularities practised by Mr. Mathews, in taking advantage of his official position to pass merchandise in contraband, to sell protection to natives, and other nefarious practices, by which he has enriched himself.

The United States' Government, some years ago, directed the United States' Consul at Gibraltar, Mr. Sprague, a wealthy merchant, who is a particular friend of

* Nos. 19, 28, and 35.

† No. 66.

Mr. Mathews, to go over to Tangier to make an inquiry into his proceedings. The Moorish officials, being guilty themselves of corrupt practices, feared to give evidence against Mr. Mathews, lest he should bring counter-charges against them under the notice of the Sultan, as he threatened, so Mr. Mathews was acquitted.

For the same reasons Mr. Ingraham, the Commissioner lately appointed by the United States' Government, also failed in obtaining evidence from the Moorish officials.

Mr. Ingraham called upon me and inquired whether I could afford him any information on the subject of the charges made against Mr. Mathews regarding the extension of irregular protection, passing goods in contraband, and other malpractices.

I replied that it was a very delicate matter to express an opinion as British Minister respecting charges brought against another foreign Representative, but as Mr. Ingraham assured me he would consider any information I might afford to be of a strictly confidential character, I told him frankly that, during a long course of years, from information imparted to me by Moorish officials and others, the conviction had been left on my mind that Mr. Mathews (*alias* Mathews Gaspar, a Spaniard by extraction) was guilty of corrupt practices and unworthy of being the Representative of a Great Power, and that no one regretted more than I did that, on this account, I had been compelled to shun the society of my American colleague.

I put into the hands of Mr. Ingraham (and told him he might make what use of it he pleased) some correspondence I had with Mr. Mathews when I happened to be left in charge of the Swedish Consulate-General, in which I had required that he should withdraw the protection he had afforded irregularly to a notorious receiver of stolen cattle, whose arrest and imprisonment I had demanded on account of cattle stolen from the caravans of the Swedish Consulate-General.

Mr. Mathews, with much reluctance, withdrew temporarily his protection, and the Moor was imprisoned by the Basha of Tangier, and was condemned to pay the value of the cattle.

Mr. Mathews, after Mr. Ingraham's visit, called on me, and requested that I would make known to him what had passed between me and Mr. Ingraham.

I declined to accede to his request, but I made no secret of having put Mr. Ingraham in possession of the correspondence that had passed regarding the protection afforded to the receiver of stolen cattle.

Mr. Ingraham left Tangier very suddenly, and there were unpleasant rumours regarding his having previously come to an amicable arrangement with Mr. Mathews to suppress any information which might affect unfavourably the character of the latter.

I know nothing about the "Halu" or "Nellal" cases; but a few weeks before I left Tangier a wealthy Arab from the interior, a relative of a Basha of a southern province, who had incurred the displeasure of the latter, sent word to me to say he had come up to Tangier to purchase United States' protection from Mr. Jasper Mathews, the United States' Vice-Consul, for 5,000 dollars; but that, in consequence of rumours he had heard since his arrival that the Consul and his son might lose their posts, he repented having come to Tangier, and wished to proceed to the Court to appeal to the Sultan for justice. He therefore begged I would give him a private note to the Vizier Gharroet, asking that his case should be judged by His Sherrefian Majesty, and that he should be pardoned for having taken any steps to secure foreign protection.

As I learnt from the Acting Minister Torres that it would please the Sultan if I aided in inducing this Moor to go to the Court, and as he said the applicant did not put faith in the safe-conduct he (Torres) had offered him, I gave him a private letter to the Vizier, and he left Tangier without paying to Mr. J. Mathews the bribe for protection.

I mention this as a further proof of the malpractices of Mr. Mathews.

I am, however, of opinion, from my experience of the action of the United States' Government when the misconduct of their Representative at Tangier had been brought under their notice, that no beneficial result is like to be brought about by the action of the Representatives in the Halu case.

On a reference to the Circular which I addressed to my colleagues on the eve of my departure,* and to the friendly observations made therein by all the Representatives, I take this opportunity of mentioning that it was with the greatest surprise that I read the fawning and flattering language Mr. Mathews inserted in that Circular regarding me, though he knew, and indeed I had admitted, that I had not concealed my opinion of him from Mr. Ingraham.

Mr. Mathews' statement in the Circular regarding the friendship and pleasant social intercourse which had existed between him and my family is a pure invention on his

* See Mr. White's despatch in June 1886.—J. H. D. H.

part, and probably written to be made use of in some form with the United States' Government.

In the charges that have been brought against Mr. Mathews by M. Perdicaris, he has received the warmest support from the editors of the local papers.

The editor of the "Moghrib-el-Aksar," Mr. Abrines, is a near relative of Mr. Mathews. Mr. Levy Cohen, the editor of the "Réveil," is Mr. Mathews' agent for collecting trumped-up claims of protected Jews, on which Cohen obtains 10 per cent.

Mr. Meakin, the editor of the "Times of Morocco," is Mr. Mathews' intimate friend and adviser, and on a late visit of Mr. Meakin to the Sultan's Court he was provided with a letter of recommendation to the Vizier by Mr. Mathews.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

October 30, 1886.

No. 91

Sir J. Goldsmid and Mr. A. Cohen, M.P., to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received November 4)

London, November 3, 1886.

My Lord,

ON the 10th April we were favoured by the Foreign Office with a printed despatch (North Africa, Confidential, No. 9), in which Sir John Drummond Hay communicated to the Earl of Rosebery a Report of the steps which were taken in concert with the French and Italian Representatives relative to the Jews of Dénat.

Subsequently we received from the Dénat Jews complaints to the effect that they had obtained no compensation whatsoever for their losses in life and property. We then wrote to these correspondents asking them to state to us in unambiguous terms the precise facts which they desired to bring under the notice of the Moorish Government, in order that they might set their claims in a true light, and thereby remove any injurious or false impression. Thereupon we received from Rabbi David Amar a reply, which we submit to your Lordship's earnest consideration in the accompanying enclosure.

The writer, in rebutting the charges which are made against the veracity of the applicants, urges that the persons affected by the outrageous conduct of the Governor of Dénat should receive due compensation and the restoration of the property of which they were deprived.

Under these circumstances, we respectfully request that your Lordship may be pleased to adopt such further measures as will result in affording sufficient protection to the Jews of Dénat, and in procuring for the persons interested such compensation as, in your Lordship's opinion, ought to be secured.

We have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN GOLDSMID, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association
ARTHUR COHEN, President of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.

Inclosure in No. 91

Mr. D. Amar to the Members of the Anglo-Jewish Association in London.

(Translation.)

Dénat, 18th Sivan, 5646 (June 21, 1886).

WE reply to your letter wherein you asked us to state the facts which formed the subject of our complaint, and you desire us to avoid every statement that would disagree with the actual occurrences.

You were informed by the Moorish authorities, through the medium of Sir John Drummond Hay, that we told an untruth in asserting that four murders had been committed, whilst, in reality, only one person had been killed.

The Governor of Dénat, or whoever the official informant might have been, must have been aware that he told a falsehood, with the object of clearing himself from complicity.

The facts are that three men and one woman have been murdered. Their names are: (1) David Kavosh, who was slain beyond the outskirts of the town, and up to this day has not been brought to his grave; (2) Mordecai Danino, who was likewise killed.

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outside the town; his funeral could only be effected at a heavy expense to ourselves. (3) Rabbi Isaac Cohen, who received from the Governor's satellites severe sword-wounds, of which he died after lingering for twenty days, (4) Percha, the daughter of Moses Alhaz, the Governor's satellites knocked her down with stones and trampled upon her. She died the same day.

It is a true fact that Caïd Gitali interdicted his subordinates from having any dealings with us. When he left our town and went with the Sultan to Zuz, the people resumed their dealings with us, but we despair as to what will happen when he returns to Demnat.

On a former occasion we affirmed that the Governor is bent on murdering the Jews. We have been told that this is positively his intention. He has directed his subordinates to kill any Jew who is found beyond the outskirts of the town, and that the commission of such murder shall be kept a secret.

Three men of our community, named Hadan, Mimon Ben Zebo, and Mordecai Ben Casso, came forward as witnesses against us concerning things they had not seen. They sought to set the Governor against us, for they are his accomplices, and derive advantages from his dealings with them.

You have been told that we had sworn that our assailants at the gates of Demnat took from us 30,000 reals. This is not the truth. The account which we gave to the Sultan's Commissioners was officially entered, and duly signed. The name of every claimant was entered, together with the loss he had sustained. The total demand came to something slightly above 8,000 duros. The purport of these entries we have sent to the Representatives of the foreign Powers. We have proffered no other oath except the one we made in Tangier concerning the money which the Governor took from those mentioned in our protest, including the men in the community of Demnat. Although we have taken great pains to assert our rights, we have hitherto received no compensation.

You have been informed that we borrowed from Jacob Ben Said 200 duros; that, consequently, we ourselves were penniless, and could not lay claim to being reimbursed for large amounts of money lost. The facts are these: We fled in large numbers from Demnat, some of the fugitive were penniless. When we came to Casablanca we left there thirty men, who could not afford to accompany us. We were therefore obliged to borrow money for their maintenance, for we did not know what might be our own position, and how much we would have to spend in Tangier; we, therefore, could not part with any money we held in hand. On our return home, *via* Casablanca, we paid the debt.

When we reached the gates of Demnat we were attacked with knives and stones. Ten of us, men and women, were wounded, and we ourselves were plundered.

Gentlemen, the duty is incumbent upon you to procure redress for us in our afflictions. Beyond yourselves there is none to have pity and compassion upon us. The money of which we have been deprived, and concerning which we have depositions in Tangier, should be restored to us. We should also receive back what was taken from us at the gates of Demnat. We demand compensation for the blood of the poor creatures who have been murdered, and who have left behind them distressed and forlorn orphans.

We offer up prayers for the prosperity and glory of your righteously-ruling Queen and her family.

On behalf of the community of Demnat,
(Signed) DAVID AMAR.

No. 92.

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 679.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 5, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, a Decree appointing M. Bihourd, now Director of Departmental and Commercial Administration in the Department of the Interior, to be Resident-General of the Republic in Tunis.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

* Not printed.

No. 93.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 27, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Féraud, the French Representative, left this on the 24th instant in the French Government dispatch-boat "Hirondelle" for Mogador, whence he purposes proceeding to the city of Morocco, to visit the Sultan, who is residing there for the present.

M. Féraud is accompanied by a large staff, several of which are military men, and other persons who have come from France expressly to join his Mission.

Though my French colleague prior to starting assured me that he had no important matters to discuss with the Sultan, and that he merely intended to urge upon His Shereefian Majesty the necessity of marching with the times, still I think it would probably be found that the question of the rectification of the Mauro-Algerine frontier alluded to in Mr. White's Confidential despatch No. 50 to your Lordship of the 16th August last will not have been left untouched by M. Féraud.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 94.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Count Corti.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, November 8, 1886.

WITH reference to the inquiry made by your Excellency as to whether there is any information in this Office tending to confirm a report which has reached the Italian Government that two French military engineers have been sent to survey the port of Bizerta, in Tunis, I have to acquaint you that, in a late despatch received from Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, it is stated that the French are making preparations at Bona for enlarging the harbour there, which is to comprise a basin for naval purposes; and that Mr. Consul Sandwith expresses the opinion that, in view of those operations, there seems to be no project on foot for making Bizerta a military port, contrary to the assurances given by M. B. de St. Hilaire in 1881.

I have, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 95.

Sir R. L. Playfair to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Algiers, November 6, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 3, dated the 30th ultimo, transmitting copies of correspondence relative to the affairs of General Hamida Benayad.

I shall proceed to Tunis immediately after the arrival there of the newly-appointed Resident-General, M. Bihourd.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 96.

Observations by Sir J. Drummond Hay on the Letter of the Anglo-Jewish Association and the London Committee of Jews of November 3, 1886, regarding the Claims of the Jews of Demnat for Compensation.

WHEN I left Tangier, in July, neither I nor the Ministers of France and Italy had received any further communication from the Vizier Garneet regarding the claims of the Jews of Demnat, but if I remember rightly, the Italian Minister, M. Scovasso, had received a report from a person whom he had directed to make inquiries regarding the

losses in money and jewellery alleged to have been sustained by the Jews on their return from the Moorish Court to Demnat, which tended to confirm the statement of the Vizier in his letter of the 26th January of last year, that the Jews had presented claims far exceeding the amount they lost.

The Governor of Demnat Kaid Jelaly, had no doubt treated the Jews in a most barbarous manner, which gave rise to their first appeal to the foreign Ministers at Tangier, and the Sultan had directed, in consequence of their joint representation, that Kaid Jelaly should no longer exercise jurisdiction over the Jews at Demnat, and the Military Governor of the city of Morocco was appointed to replace him in that office.

It appears to me that Mr Green should be instructed to ascertain whether his colleagues of France and Italy, especially the latter, had received any further authentic information regarding the losses alleged to have been sustained, and the number of deaths caused by the brutality of the Mohammedan mob, and that he should come to an understanding with his colleagues regarding the next step to be taken in making a representation to the Vizier Garnet with reference to their letter of the 18th March last year, in which they urged that, after a further investigation by Commissioners appointed by the Sultan, an equitable arrangement for compensation to the Demnat Jews should be effected.

Mr. Green might also, on his approaching visit to the Court, be authorized to appeal to the Sultan's benevolence and good-will to act leniently and generously towards his unfortunate Jewish subjects, and to forgive them, even if they may have made statements regarding their losses which have not been corroborated by the evidence hitherto presented.

I have to recommend also that Mr. Green should consult and continue to act with his colleagues upon this subject

(Signed)

J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, November 12, 1886.

No. 97.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 115. Secret.)

Foreign Office, November 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 64, Secret, of October 7, 1886: ante, No. 75^a.]

No. 98.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 209. Secret.)

Foreign Office, November 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 64, Secret, October 7, 1886: ante, No. 75^a.]

No. 99.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 522. Secret.)

Foreign Office, November 15, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. White's No. 64, Secret, October 7, 1886: ante, No. 75^a.]

No. 100.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to Sir J. Goldsmid.**

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, November 17, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3rd instant in regard to the Jews of Demnat.

I am to acquaint you, for the information of your Association, that a copy of your letter has been sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, who has been instructed to

* Also to Mr. A. Cohen. M.P.

report whether he has received any further intelligence respecting the deaths caused by the Mohammedan mob. Mr. Kirby Green has, at the same time, been directed to endeavour to act in concert with his colleagues in pressing the Moorish Government to make equitable compensation.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

JULIAN POUNCEFOTE.

No. 101.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 32.)

Tunis, November 10, 1886.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival to-day of M. Cambon, late French Resident in Tunis, now French Ambassador at Madrid.

His Excellency has come to take leave of His Highness the Bey, and it is expected that he will leave in a few days for his new post.

During his five years' tenure of the office of Resident-General, he has had no easy task to accomplish. His merit consists in his tenacity in carrying out the policy confided to him, undeterred by the opposition of the annexationists and of the various interested parties who had some private objects to advance. In the administration of the finances he deserves all praise, for not only has he placed the country in a sound financial position, but has created a considerable reserve fund to guarantee the payment of the several public Departments in years of scarcity which cannot fail to occur.

His conduct in sanctioning the grant of a Concession to a French Company for the water supply of Tunis, and to a Franco-English Company the monopoly of esparto in an extensive district, is not easy to defend.

M. Cambon's relations with the Consular Body have been marked on the whole by an accommodating spirit; his word could be trusted, and if he was not always able to carry out his promises, it was due rather to obstacles encountered at Paris than to any want of good faith.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 102.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)

Tangier, November 13, 1886.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I have learnt from a source to which some credence must be attached that M. Féraud, the French Representative in Morocco, is about to be recalled by his Government and to be replaced by M. Roustan, of Tunis notoriety.

M. Roustan's advent in this country would necessarily bode no good to the Sultan and to the independence of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 103.

Sir Clare Ford to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)

Madrid, November 17, 1886.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of a telegram which appeared in the "Imparcial" of yesterday as proceeding from Paris, and quoting an article from the French newspaper "Le Matin," relative to an understanding alleged to have been arrived at between Spain and France with regard to Morocco.

As I had occasion to call yesterday at the Ministry of State, where I saw Señor Agüera, the Under-Secretary, I inquired of him whether he had seen the telegram in

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question, and, if so, what truth was to be attached to it. He replied that he had noticed it, and that the statement contained in it was devoid of all foundation.

This reply was confirmed by Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, whom I saw later, and who informed me that he attributed the origin of the report to Señor Zorilla, who was always on the alert to embarrass the Spanish Government if possible. He added that he wished to speak some day with me on the subject of Morocco as regarded the interests of different foreign Powers in that Empire, but for the moment he did not pursue the subject further.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 16, 1886.

(Translation.)

SPAIN AND FRANCE IN MOROCCO.—In a short article published to-day by "Le Matin," it is stated that the agreement which has been arrived at by France and Spain with a view to common action in Morocco has been favourably received by the Italians and all the other European Powers established in that Empire.

England is the only Power which displays little satisfaction at the entente between France and Spain.

The journal in question adds that the close alliance of France and Spain is counted upon as an initiation of a policy of regeneration in the Moorish Empire.

As soon as this alliance has once been realized, it would at once receive the support of the other European Governments.

Thanks to it, Italy and Germany would be able to develop their interests in the Sherifian territory.

England would simply have to give up her pretensions. "Le Matin" alludes to M. Castelar, and supposes that the eminent orator will be able, sooner or later, although in an unofficial manner, to bring about the realization of this alliance, which would be highly agreeable to the Colony resident in Morocco.

This declaration of the "Matin" requires a correction, for as the Moorish question is an exclusively diplomatic one, M. Castelar is entirely without authority to discuss it.

No. 104.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 20.)

(Telegraphic)

Tunis, November 19, 1886.

FRENCH engineers have been engaged during the past month tracing a passage for a canal between the sea and the Lake of Bizerta, and sinking holes for samples of strata.

Two weeks ago Governor of that town was sent for to Tunis, and after two days he returned and went round lake, taking with him an engineer, who surveyed the lands of all the native proprietors, who were forbidden to sell their land.

No. 105

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 73. Most Secret and Confidential.)

Tangier, November 14, 1886.

My Lord,

PERHAPS your Lordship, bearing in mind the recent reports in the French and Spanish press of Señor Castelar's proceedings in Paris with regard to the alleged offer of the French Government to come to an understanding with Spain as to the future of Morocco and the expulsion of the English from Gibraltar, and also the possible appearance of M. Roustan in this country, reported yesterday in my despatch No. 72. Confidential, will hold me excused for troubling your Lordship with the following observations on our general and particular interests in this country, and the manner in which the latter, if need be, should be secured.

Our general interests in Morocco are entirely commercial, and therefore are connected with the welfare of the whole of the country.

Our particular interests are more especially attached with that portion of the Moorish Empire which forms the southern shores of the Straits of Gibraltar. The question of who holds or is to hold that strip of Maroccan territory is one which cannot be ignored by English statesmen. It is of such high importance that it caps that of our free-way through Egypt. The slightest change arising in the present political position of the strategical points of the African shores of the Straits might render of little value not only all we have secured at such great cost in Egypt, but also our stations of Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, and even as far down as Aden and Perim.

Up to the present time, by the great energy and influence of my predecessor, Sir John Drummond Hay, and the consummate talent he showed in sheltering the Moorish Government from the attempted encroachments of its neighbours, a disruption of the Moorish Empire has been prevented. But my predecessor has taken away with him in his retirement the conviction that during the whole of the long years he was here he never was able to arrest the decay and the suicidal tendencies with which the Moorish Government is afflicted, and that these ills are destined sooner or later to bring about a dissolution which will end in a scramble for the Moorish heritage.

Morocco being thus certain to pass into the hands of strangers, it is impossible to leave for the last hour the consideration of the safety of the free passage of the Straits of Gibraltar. That freedom of passage will disappear the moment Tangier ceases to be in the hands and under the control of the Moorish Government, or if Tangier is not held by Great Britain.

I venture here to borrow a present-day newspaper expedient to bring under your Lordship's immediate comprehension the importance of the position occupied by Tangier on the Straits of Gibraltar, by inserting in this paragraph a rough sketch map of the Straits.



Your Lordship will observe that our possession of Gibraltar only neutralizes the Spanish one of Ceuta, on the opposite shore, and that if Spain had possession of the whole of the Moorish coast depicted, Gibraltar, standing isolated, would be of very little value to us indeed. This being so, of how much less value would Gibraltar be if France replaced the Moor by annexing his country, or by establishing over it a Protectorate similar to that of Tunis?

A glance at the Sketch-map is sufficient to recall to mind how narrow is the only waterway into the Mediterranean, and that through that way every steamer has to pass going eastward or coming westward, and that also no steamer proceeding to or coming from our Indian Empire, or our great Colonies beyond, by the Suez Canal, can more avoid passing Gibraltar and Tangier than it can avoid Port Said and Ismailia. To record patent facts thus reiterated may sound at first absurd, but your Lordship will perhaps pardon me if I fear not being able to sufficiently clearly convey by words what I see here with my eyes every hour of the day. Here on the African shores of the Straits of Gibraltar I cannot look out upon the channel without being immediately forcibly reminded that I am watching the most important high-road of our navigation eastwards, for steamers never cease passing. Half-a-dozen may always be counted on as being within range of sight, and the majority of them bearing the English flag. And it is here, too, that one can see at the same glance that this northern gateway of the Suez Canal is in no way secured by our fortress at Gibraltar. Gibraltar is no naval port, the vessels lying under its guns being unable to shelter themselves from the fire of batteries on Spanish territory. Our fortress can only cover the passage in or out of the Mediterranean; it can hardly secure a safe run through the Straits themselves.

It could do so, however, if Tangier remained always in its present state, or if the Moorish port was in British hands. A diagonal course steered by a steamer from Gibraltar to Tangier, or vice versa, would at all times enable it to gain the high sea with but small risks.

These risks would become insurmountable the day Tangier fell into French hands, for not only is Tangier capable of being rendered an impregnable fortress, but it also offers many advantages and facilities for being transformed into a great naval port.

It is, I am sure, unnecessary for me to dilate on the disastrous consequences of such a contingency.

Our special interest as to the possession of a certain point of the African shore of the Gibraltar Straits being thus established, I must revert to the question of the need of a determination being taken without delay in view of impending changes here in the present political state of things which are apparently inevitable.

The utter incapacity of the Sultan and his Ministers to march with the times; the greater knowledge acquired daily by European Governments and peoples of the natural and commercial resources of Morocco; the conviction of some of these European Governments that from the African shores of the Straits of Gibraltar the highway to India and the further East can be controlled—all are forces which are actively working towards the disappearance of native dominion.

Yesterday Sir John Drummond Hay was able to check a too obvious attempt made by France through M. Ordego to snatch the coveted possession. But it is a question whether I should succeed in following my predecessor's steps if to-morrow the news was to reach us that M. Féraud had so worked upon the Sultan's fears that His Sherrefian Majesty had elected to accept that protection which might otherwise place under the Sherrefian umbrella the Sultan's rival, the Sherref of Wazan, or some other equally influential hereditary son of the same country.

For Her Majesty's Government to conjure away these dangers by simply deciding upon maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco is impossible. The attempt to follow a somewhat similar policy in favour of a greater and a much more civilized Mohammedan Power has been sufficiently arduous to prevent all encouragement for its repetition in this direction. Besides, the Ottoman Government has never refused to progress, and it has progressed, but the Moorish Government not only declines to advance, but it daily recedes.

Of course, there is no need to precipitate the decrease of Moorish supremacy, and as long as its life can be maintained there may be a distinct gain in the shape of a political aqual being avoided; but the moment all that is infamous in the shape of a Government—universal pillage by the Governors of the governed; periodical famines of the most terrible nature through the apathy of the Administration; persistence in the Slave Trade; and a determination to resist every development of the natural resources of the country—must be championed in European Councils, it will be understood that no Government could justify the advocacy of such a cause merely because otherwise a crisis of a serious, but a curative, character would have to be faced; and to let the Moorish Government to come by its merited end neither can be permitted, except Tangier reverts to be, after a lapse of two centuries, a British possession.

As for the question of our general interests in Morocco—the Empire of Morocco behind the Straits of Gibraltar—they are, as I have already said, entirely commercial. Their importance is considerable, for they now nearly reach 2,000,000*l.* annually of British imports and exports, but unless a miracle can be expected to arise and reform the Moorish Administration, the usual force of events will cause Morocco to be merged into the Barbary possessions of France.

This will come to pass sooner or later, though I have no doubt it may be somewhat retarded by the opposition of Spain, an opposition which can only end by forming the pair to that of Italy in the Tunisian question.

The Moorish Government counts much upon this support of Spain, as well as upon that of England, Germany, and Italy, and therefore will be all the more likely to put itself with inconsiderate precipitation under French protection when it discovers that it can only dispose of the moral and not material support of its friends.

Having enumerated the outside forces which may bring about the end of the Sherrefian Administration in Morocco, I must not omit that internal dangers tending to the same end also exist and are at work in the country.

The most serious and alarming of these is the system sanctioned under the Convention of Madrid of July 1880 of Diplomatic and Consular protection in Morocco of natives. By this apparent contrivance for evading the occurrence of dangerous questions with foreign Governments through the unpleasant contact of their merchants with the

rough and ready ways of the Moorish local authorities, the Sultan's Government is seeing itself rapidly deprived of all jurisdiction over all its subjects who have a few dollars to their names. If nothing else intervenes in the meantime, before a decade passes this system of foreign protection will have quietly set aside all native government, and have distributed among those countries whose Representatives shall have been the least scrupulous in according to their subjects the privileges of the abuse sanctioned by the aforesaid Convention all administrative power.

Yet another internal danger exists to bring about, perhaps even an hour sooner than expected, an acute crisis of the Morocco question.

The Sultanate of Morocco is an elective one. There are upwards of two thousand members of the Sherrefian family eligible for election. Since early in this century the reigning Sultan has been able so to manage as to make sure before his demise of the election of his nominee; but in former times the death of a Sultan was generally the signal for an interlude of three or four Sultans, whose strength had to be tried among their respective factions before the country could know again a single Sovereign. The weakening effect in the Government of the system of protection, and other similar disintegrating causes, I fear, may revive at an unexpected moment the old scramble for the Sultanate. Morocco has now been brought by modern means of conveyance far too close to the civilized world to be allowed to ventilate for any appreciable time, according to its old ways, its dynastic struggles. Such political complications would result in French intervention as soon as they arose.

Under all these circumstances, our particular interests in maintaining at all hazards an open way through the Straits of Gibraltar ought to find us, at the critical moment, ready with a plan for action.

That plan should be the seizure of Tangier before it could become known to any foreign Government—the place to be held either permanently or until such time as proper steps could be arranged and taken for preventing it passing out of hands equally satisfactory to us as are the Moorish at present.

Should Her Majesty's Government coincide with the views I have set forth, everything should be properly prepared, lest sudden action should become needful. A couple of regiments from Gibraltar with a proper contingent of engineers and artillerymen ought always to be ready for being thrown into Tangier. The place has fine batteries, but only a few ragged artillerymen to man them, and it would be the duty of the British Representatives here to so prepare the way that no difficulty should be encountered by the incoming garrison, which, when once landed, would be quickly able to make the place capable of repelling most hostile onsets.

If, however, a more temporizing course should be advisable, and time not be too pressing, the dispatch of a couple of iron-clads to hold Tangier Bay until further measures should be needful might suffice.

Of course, I give this opinion on military matters with the greatest diffidence. The time of the crisis ought not to find us without the best and highest professional Reports in this direction.

In conclusion, I hope I shall not meet with your Lordship's disapproval for having ventured, so shortly after my arrival in this country, to trespass on your Lordship's valuable time with this Report. Though it is my firm belief that, however strong a prop may be, it cannot sustain a substance that has no cohesion in itself, still I can assure your Lordship that I shall do my best to prevent difficulties and mischief arising unnecessarily in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

P.S.—Having submitted the above despatch to Mr. White for perusal, he has called my attention to despatch No. 24 of the 24th March, 1884, marked Secret, addressed by Sir John Drummond Hay to Earl Granville. I find that I have had the good fortune to have been echoing the conclusions of my predecessor on this important matter.

W. K. G.

Annex.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.

(No 24. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 24, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 8th instant, transmitting the substance of a despatch from Count Nigra to M. Mancini, in which it is suggested that some steps might be taken by the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain to represent to the French Government the complications which might ensue from the action of their Representative at Tangier.

With reference to this subject I have now the honour to transmit the translation of a secret letter addressed to me by the Vizier Mukhtar, by order of the Sultan, in which His Sheressian Majesty solicits the friendly action of Her Majesty's Government to "ward off the danger which threatens His Majesty's dominions, and stop the hand of the enemy from being laid on them."

The Vizier does not mention who is the enemy, but there is no doubt that France is the Power alluded to. The Vizier observes that it is needless for him to make known to me what has occurred, as "it is manifest to all."

The proceedings of M. Ordega in affording protection to the Great Shercef of Wazan, and to his family and dependents, contrary to Treaty, and in having insisted that French citizens should be allowed to travel in the lawless country of Reef, where the Sultan has little or no power of control, and the general menacing and dictatorial attitude which M. Ordega assumes in treating with the Sultan's Ministers or Governors, or with other local authorities, have no doubt given rise to grave apprehensions on the part of the Sultan, that the object of the French Government is to seek for a pretext for breaking off relations, and finally to take possession of the country.

In the passage where the Vizier states that Regulations are infringed he no doubt refers to the stipulations of the Convention of Madrid, which has become a dead letter in every respect, the French having set the example in showing a total disregard for the terms of the stipulations, and their example having been followed by the Representatives of other Powers, Great Britain included, who claim to be placed on the footing of the most favoured nation. The Regulations about taxation are not carried into execution, and the Moorish authorities dare not enforce them so long as foreign Consular officers, especially the French, refuse to allow that persons under their protection be required to pay taxes.

At the meetings of the foreign Representatives at Tangier, both before and after the Madrid Conference, it will be found by the language I then held that I foresaw the evils which have ensued from the extension of protection, and I foretold that it would finally tend to subvert all government in this country.

On the 20th instant M. Ordega dispatched M. Blondel, one of the Secretaries of Legation, and the Chancellor, M. Bertrand, to Wazan, to inquire into the claim of the Shercef on account of loss of property there caused by the proceedings of Governor Old Mohammed Gebbar: these officers have been directed to take note of the names of all the dependents, and of the lands of the Shercef, not only at Wazan, but in other parts of the Gharb. It is reported that they have been authorized to proceed to the Moorish Court if proper attention is not shown to the demands they may put forward.

I learn confidentially from a reliable source that the Shercef talks openly of arming his numerous followers, and of resisting any attempt of the authorities to control his dependents. He declares that he has accepted French protection, as he foresees the downfall of the Sultan's power, and that this country must ere long fall into the hands of France, and that he will do all in his power to bring about that catastrophe.

Though the French Government will, no doubt, continue to afford satisfactory assurances to Her Majesty's Government regarding their desire to maintain the *status quo*, and not to give rise to complications by their action in Morocco, I will not conceal from your Lordship that I cannot believe in their sincerity so long as they allow, and apparently encourage, their Minister and officers to show an utter disregard for the independence of the Sultan and the authority of his officers. At any time, when least expected, it is to be apprehended that M. Ordega may take some extreme step from which the French Government will declare they cannot recede, knowing that public opinion in France would support them.

Under these circumstances, I venture to submit that no time should be lost in coming to an understanding with other Powers regarding the maintenance of the integrity and independence of Morocco, occupying by its northern sea-board the passage to the Mediterranean for the shipping and commerce of all nations. If the Powers of Europe and America entered into an international arrangement by which the integrity of Morocco would be upheld and the independence of its Sovereign maintained, that would be a fitting time to require, and even to insist, that the Sultan and his Government should introduce reforms and improvements for the benefit of the civilized world, and open to foreign enterprise the great resources of this country, rich in agricultural produce and minerals.

I have not as yet acknowledged the receipt of the letter of the Vizier, but when I do so I shall simply request him to inform the Sultan that I have transmitted to Her Majesty's Government a translation of his communication.

It occurs to me to mention that it might be possible, if the Sultan was led to apprehend that neither Great Britain nor other Powers are disposed to come to his relief by taking steps to check the action of France, which has tended to paralyze his authority and to subvert all government in the country, His Sheressian Majesty, losing all hope, may come to the conclusion that his best policy will be to seek for the Protectorate of France, and thus remove for a time the prospect of his dominions being taken possession of and annexed to Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in Annex.

The Vizier to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation)

(Secret.)

(After usual compliments.)

I Jumada 15, 1301 (March 24, 1882)

YOU are aware, O esteemed friend, that famine, caused by years of dearth, has brought great distress and misery upon God's creatures in these dominions, and you must also know how all Regulations have been infringed, and in treating affairs all authority has been disregarded, until patience is lost, and it only remains for the enemy to lay his hands (upon the country). It is needless to make known to you what has occurred; it is manifest and known to all.

Our Lord the Sultan has ordered us to address you this secret communication, in order that you may write to your powerful Government and inform them of the grave prejudice which is suffered, and that you may solicit, in the name of His Sheressian Majesty, that steps be taken to ward off the danger that threatens these dominions, and stop the hand of the enemy being laid on.

His Sheressian Majesty is not inclined to seek for counsel in this matter except from them (Her Majesty's Government), as being the most friendly of friends, the most reliable of those to be relied on, and the most judicious, with whom counsel can be taken. How could it be otherwise? for the English were always the true and friendly allies of His Majesty's ancestors.

Let us know what you may write upon this subject.

Finished I Jumada 15, 1301.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN ALABBI BEN EL MUKHTAR.

No. 106.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 798.)

Foreign Office, November 24, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's telegram of November 19, 1886: *ante*, No. 104.]

No. 107.

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 604.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 24, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 579 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to enclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, notifications of the appointment of M. Bihourd, who was lately named Resident-General in Tunis, to be Resident-General in Annam and Tonquin, in the place of the late M. Paul Bert; and of the appointment of M. Massicault, Préfet du Rhône, to be Resident-General in Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of November 24, 1886.

PAR Décret en date du 23 Novembre, 1886, rendu sur la proposition du Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères. M. Bihourd, Ministre Plénipotentiaire, chargé des fonctions de Résident-Général en Tunisie et non installé, a été nommé Résident-Général de la République Française en Annam et au Tonkin, en remplacement de M. Paul Bert, décédé.

Par Décret en date du 23 Novembre, 1886, rendu sur la proposition du Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, M. Massicault, Préfet du Rhône, a été nommé Ministre Plénipotentiaire et chargé, en cette qualité, des fonctions de Résident-Général de la République Française à Tunis, en remplacement de M. Bihourd (non installé).

No. 108.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 33.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 20, 1886.

I HAVE been informed on trustworthy authority that a French engineer, with a number of assistants, has been marking out a line between the Lake of Bizerta and the sea, which should form the passage for a channel between them. In several places in this line holes have been dug, with the view apparently of finding out the kinds of strata through which a projected canal would have to be cut.

What gives consistency to the rumour that there is an intention on the part of the French to make a military port at Bizerta is the following circumstance, which has just been reported to me.

About a fortnight ago the Governor of Bizerta was summoned by telegraph to the French Residency, when, after a two days' visit, he returned to his post, and, taking with him a native land surveyor, he made a tour of the lake, and, visiting every proprietor whose farm abutted on the lake, he enjoined them on no account to sell their land to any one. After taking down their names and a rough measurement of their land he returned to Bizerta.

The above information I had the honour of communicating to your Lordship yesterday by a cyphered telegram.

It would appear that the preparations making at Bona for a military port have latterly been discontinued, and the French engineers are now confining their attention to a commercial port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

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No. 109.

Mr. Lowy to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 27.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, 100, Sutherland Gardens,
London, November 26, 1886.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's letter, dated the 17th November, and stating that the Memorial relating to the Jews of Demnat (Morocco) with the signatures of Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P., and Mr. Arthur Cohen, M.P., had been forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, I am directed to convey to your Lordship the expressions of profound thanks for the prompt and humane attention you have accorded to the subject of that Memorial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LOWY, Secretary.

No. 110.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 806. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 27, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 68 of October 27, and Consul Sandwith's No. 32 of November 10, 1886: ante, Nos. 93 and 101.]

No. 111.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 110. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 27, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Consul Sandwith's No. 32 of November 10, and Mr. Kirby Green's No. 72, Confidential, of November 13, 1886: ante, Nos. 101 and 102.]

No. 112.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Kirby Green

(No. 45.)

Foreign Office, November 27, 1886.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch to Sir J. D. Hay No. 18 of the 22nd May and to previous correspondence, I transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a communication from the Anglo-Jewish Association in regard to the Jews of Demnat.* Having referred the Association's letter to Sir J. D. Hay for his observations, copy of which I inclose,† I have now to request you to ascertain whether the French and Italian Representatives at Tangier especially the latter, have received any further authentic information regarding the losses alleged to have been sustained and the number of deaths caused by the brutality of the Mahomedan mob. You should come to an understanding with your colleagues regarding the next step to be taken in making a further representation to the Vizier Garneet, in connection with that made by the foreign Representatives in March of last year, urging that after a further investigation by Commissioners appointed by the Sultan an equitable arrangement for compensation to the Demnat Jews should be effected. I authorize you, on your approaching visit to the Court, to appeal to His Majesty's benevolence and goodwill to act leniently and generously towards his unfortunate Jewish subjects, and to forgive them even if they may have made statements regarding their losses which have not been corroborated by the evidence hitherto presented.

Finally, you should consult and continue to act with your colleagues in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

* No. 91
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† Extract (first two paragraphs of Sir J. D. Hay's observations, No. 96
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The Earl of Iddesleigh to Count Corti.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, November 27, 1886.

SINCE addressing to your Excellency my letter of the 8th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, reporting that French engineers have been engaged during the past month in tracing a passage for a canal between the sea and the Lake of Bizerta, and sinking holes for samples of strata of the earth. Mr Sandwith adds that two weeks ago the Governor of Bizerta was sent for to Tunis. On his return, after an absence of two days, he went round the lake with an engineer, who surveyed the lands of all the surrounding native proprietors, which these latter were forbidden to part with.

In connection with this matter, I beg to call your Excellency's attention to a note addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris by M. Barthélemy St Hilaire of the 16th May, 1881, in which the latter explicitly disclaimed any intentions on the part of the French Government to convert Bizerta into a military port. This note will be found in the French Yellow Book, "Affaires de Tunisie, Supplément. Avril-Mai 1881," pp. 53-4.

I have, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH

No. 114.

Mr. Porro to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received November 29.)

My Lord,

65, Ockendon Road, London, November 23, 1886.

HAVING an important communication to make to Her Majesty's Government relating to probable serious political complications in Morocco, and their bearing on Imperial interests in the Straits of Gibraltar, I have put it in the form of a letter addressed to Sir John Drummond Hay, late Minister Plenipotentiary at Tangier, and I beg to inclose the same for your Lordship's perusal. Sir John who, I believe, is at present in England, will be able to partly corroborate its contents, as likewise to give his authoritative opinion thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ED. PORRO FERRO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Mr. Porro to Sir J. Drummond Hay

Sir,

65, Ockendon Road, London, November 22, 1886.

ALTHOUGH for some time absent from Morocco, I have not ceased to take the greatest interest in its political affairs, and, therefore, I have never failed to keep myself well informed on the subject, the more so that for years past I have been in the secret of the exact views and plans of those Powers who are well known to aspire to conquests in that country. Thus, I might have called Her Majesty's Government's attention to those plans before now, however, I did not consider myself justified, unless compelled by very pressing circumstances, in divulging matters which, besides being of a nature calculated to create international distrust, had been communicated to me confidentially.

In the present European crisis, and the serious international complications which might arise therefrom, one of the most perplexing of surprises for Her Majesty's Government would undoubtedly be a grave disturbance in the present state of things in the Straits of Gibraltar, and, consequently, whatever may contribute to prevent such a disturbance, specially a clear knowledge of the situation appertaining thereto cannot but prove of real interest.

There can be little doubt, besides, that the present state of international relations makes the execution of projects previously impracticable now possible and almost certain. These considerations, therefore, have decided me to depart from the reserve hitherto observed, explaining to your Excellency, without further delay, how that disturbance and consequent troubles may be brought about.

I have the honour to inclose a literal copy (I possess the original), of a project for a French Protectorate of the semi-independent States of Sus, from Santa Cruz de Agadir southwards.

The French Government conceived this project in 1850, and a secret Agent was then sent to Morocco to carry out the preliminary unofficial negotiations with the native Chief, Sidi Hescham. Fortunately my co-operation having been solicited by the said Agent, I being at the time in terms of intimate friendship with the said aforesaid native Chief, I had a most welcome opportunity of throwing difficulties in the way, thereby succeeding in warding off the danger until, happily, the important political events which at that period so rapidly succeeded each other in France, and above all, the marriage of Napoleon III with a Spanish lady, and his subsequent alliance with England against Russia, precluded, as a matter of course, any action on the part of France likely to give offence at London and Madrid, and, therefore, the project was abandoned.

That there could be no fear of any such project being revived so long as the late Emperor remained at the head of the French nation, I was at the time assured by M. Michel Chevalier, a gentleman in the confidence of his late Majesty, and relying upon this assurance, I deemed it best to abstain from making then any unnecessary communication on the subject, either to you or to the late Don Pedro Gili. But at the same time, I have never lost sight of the parties who, under altered circumstances, might be in a position to attempt the revival of that project.

In 1880 I had reasons to suspect that some French scheme affecting Morocco was on foot, and on my visiting Paris, I learned that the same project for a Protectorate of Sus, even with improved methods of procedure for the seizure of Santa Cruz de Agadir, had actually been revived and discussed with the then French Government who, however, did not consider the moment was the most opportune for carrying it into effect.

Subsequently, I ascertained that it had been decided to secure Tunis first. Quite recently I have likewise been made acquainted that had M. Jules Ferry remained longer in power he would have found a pretext for taking possession of Santa Cruz de Agadir, and holding it as a base for further action in Sus. And, in short, that the realization of this old project was now simply a question of waiting for a favourable opportunity.

The reasons which at present weigh with France to covet the possession of Santa Cruz de Agadir, and the littoral as far south as Porto Cansado, are various, and still more important than those which had moved her in 1850, but I must not enlarge upon this point now.

What seems most urgent to be considered at the present juncture is the fact that Santa Cruz de Agadir still exists as weak and as tempting as ever, and that, therefore, it may be seized at any moment either by France, or by a native Chief supported by her, which is the same.

It is also evident by the terms of the annexed project that France deems the possession of the fortress and excellent Bay of Santa Cruz de Agadir a *sine qua non* condition to any further action of her in that part of Africa, and thus being so, it follows that if Agadir can be made safe in the hands of the Sultan of Morocco, France must relinquish her project.

Perhaps, were it a question of the doings of France alone, and affecting only Sus, there might not be cause for much objection to her views and plans thereon; anything would be preferable to the present disgraceful state of that coast.

It is, however, when this French project is considered in connection with the action that Spain, in consequence thereof, is sure to take in regard to the rest of Morocco, that the affair becomes extremely serious as dangerously affecting England's status in the Straits of Gibraltar, which, such as it is, is not, to say the least, so good as of old.

Your Excellency is aware that I have good means for ascertaining the views of statesmen at Madrid, and even of knowing what goes on behind the scenes in that capital, and I can state with confidence that from the late General Narvaez to the present leading statesmen, I know exactly what has ever been their policy and aspirations respecting Morocco.

Spain naturally has always considered Morocco to be her fair share of Africa, and the only mode through which she can conveniently extend when the increase of her population should compel her to seek new territory. But she looks to that extension as a remote contingency, and in every respect most undesirable at present. Unlike the rest of Europe, Spain, having plenty of elbow room, and much yet to do at home, is in no hurry to embark in an enterprise which, though not physically difficult, would

certainly prove financially most unprofitable, at least, for a long time, and, therefore, a bar to the much-needed development of her own home resources.

Meanwhile, the proper time arrives, may be in two generations, or more, for her stepping into Morocco, Spain, as a necessary consequence of that policy, is anxious to maintain the *status quo* in that part of Africa, and with this view she would always be disposed to induce the Moorish Government to act in such a manner as best calculated to attain that end, say, the continuance of His Shererhan Majesty's authority from the frontier of Algeria southwards to the Desert of Sahara. But, at the same time, the Government of Madrid knows too well that in this waiting policy their hands might be forced by the action of France, and, therefore, they have long since discussed the matter, and it has been decided that, in the event of France seizing upon any part of the seaboard of Morocco, Spain would have to follow suit, and, at all hazards, take possession of the rest.

Now, should this partition of Morocco come to happen, the question arises, could England allow such a vital change to take place in the Straits of Gibraltar? and, if not, could she effectually oppose both France and Spain, with, perhaps, some other Power at their back, and specially were this to occur at a time when she might have quite enough on her hands elsewhere?

With this picture in view, and it should be kept well in view since it might easily become a reality at any moment, and when least expected, what I wish to impress upon your Excellency is this: that while Her Majesty's Government may now be sure to meet with good-will and sincere co-operation on the part of Spain in any endeavours to remove the present danger threatening the integrity of Morocco through this project of France upon Agadir and Sus, there could be no hope of any such *entente* with Madrid once the possession of that port by France became a *fait accompli*.

Spain, in that case, would make terms with France, preferring to secure the three-fourths of the spoil to none at all, it being out of the question to expect Spain taking common action with England for ousting France from Agadir by force of arms.

France, on the other hand, is willing to be most liberal with Spain in the partition of Morocco, partly because she cannot do otherwise, and also owing to her being thoroughly convinced that Spain would prove as profitable a neighbour in Africa as she is in Europe.

There are still other important details to be taken into consideration, upon which, however, I do not venture to comment in this document, but hope that I have said sufficient to show that in Mediterranean intrigues there is just now something to look after on its western as well as on its eastern extremity, and I trust that this timely warning will enable Her Majesty's Government to devise (happily not very difficult) the means for averting the threatening danger.

In conclusion, I beg distinctly to state that in making this communication I am animated by the desire of rendering a service both to the United Kingdom and to Spain, agreeing most fully with your dictum that these two nations should always sail in the same boat in Moorish politics, and I may add, particularly at the present moment.

As regards France, any endeavour to remove an evil temptation from her path must prove in the end a real service to her.

Apologizing for the length of this letter, and prepared to amplify details at your Excellency's convenience, I have, &c.

(Signed) ED. PORRO FERRO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

French Project for the Seizure of Santa Cruz de Agadir, and the establishment through that port of a Protectorate of Sus (North-West Coast of Africa), Morocco.

[Printed literally.]

Monsieur,

La mission que je vous confie, et pour l'exécution de laquelle vous devrez user beaucoup de tact et de prudence, est à la fois politique et commerciale.

Vous connaissez un peu le Maroc, vous savez combien il est mal gouverné, comment le commerce y est entravé.

Malgré que le canon Français ait tonné plusieurs fois sur ces côtes inhospitalières, on doit considérer ce pays comme peu accessible à la civilisation.

L'intelligence et le désir de bien faire des Agents Français ont presque échoué jusqu'à ce jour devant cette force d'inertie que la ruse et le fanatisme Musulman opposent sans cesse à toute idée de progrès. Peut-être aussi que la politique Anglaise, qui, jalouse et craint notre influence dans ce pays, contribue à maintenir l'Empereur du Maroc dans des dispositions qui doivent per nous laisser espérer pour l'avenir de nos relations commerciales avec cette partie de l'Afrique.

Il nous faut, pour nous soustraire aux embarras commerciaux, qui sont suscités journellement par le Gouvernement Marocain, ouvrir des relations commerciales avec les Chefs des populations qui sont au sud de Mogador et qui comprennent :

1. Le pays de Haha
2. Le Gouvernement de Sidi Hussein (Hescham).
3. Le pays commandé par Sheik Beyrouk.

1. Les populations qui occupent la côte entre le Cap Baras et le Cap Noan. Les marchanises qui composent la partie la plus importante de ce pays. Les gommes, les peaux de bœufs et de chèvres, la cire, les mandes, l'huile d'olive, les plantes des antres, arrivent à Mogador par l'intermédiaire des populations que je viens d'indiquer, j'en aurais un immense avantage à trouver sur leur côte le débouché des produits de leur sol. Les gommes viennent même de plus loin. Tadmou et on, qui est un grand centre où aboutissent les caravanes en fournit à la fois à nos possessions Françaises du Sénégal et au Maroc.

Vous avez pénétré de l'importance des relations que l'on peut établir dans ce pays à mesure que je vous développe le but politique et l'avenir commercial de cette côte, qui a été jusqu'à présent à peu près inconnue, à cause de la sauvagerie des habitants que des difficultés du mouillage.

Je aborde en premier lieu la question politique; elle vous servira de point de départ et vous rendra plus intelligible la question commerciale que je traiterai ensuite en détail.

Le Gouvernement Français verrait avec sympathie un essai d'opérations commerciales avec cette côte, qui nous mènerait en rapport à peu près direct avec tout l'intérieur de l'Afrique. Un Traité a déjà été conclu en 1840 entre la France et le Sheik Beyrouk.

L'entreprise fut abandonnée parce que le Commandant du brick de guerre, la "Malouine", chargé d'explorer toute cette partie de la côte à la recherche d'un port à ouvrir dans les États de Sidi Beyrouk, a déclaré n'avoir trouvés qu'une côte plus ou moins hérissée de briquets et point d'abri suffisant pour des navires de guerre.

Depuis longtemps Sidi Hussein (Hescham) et Sidi Beyrouk revent le Protectorat de la France, ils s'accommoderaient aussi bien de celui de toute autre nation, qui, en les aidant à ouvrir un port, les soustrairait à l'obligation d'envoyer leurs produits à Mogador.

A peu près à la même époque où Sidi Beyrouk traitait avec le Gouvernement Français, il traitait aussi avec le Gouvernement Anglais, qui envoyait un brick de guerre avec des présents pour Sidi Beyrouk et la mission de faire avec lui un Traité de Commerce. Plus malheureux que la "Malouine" le brick Anglais qui se trouvait dans ces parages dans la plus mauvaise saison ne put aborder à Agassia à cause du gros temps.

Politiquement je considère qu'il n'y a rien à faire avec Sheik Beyrouk, soit parce que la côte qu'il aurait à nous offrir n'engagerait pas le Gouvernement Français à y exposer des navires de guerre, soit parce que après avoir vu que ses Traités avec la France et avec l'Angleterre n'aboutissaient pas, il a partie avec l'Empereur du Maroc duquel il a obtenu la permission d'exporter une partie de ses produits par Mogador avec réduction de droits.

Le seul protectorat possible est avec Sidi Hussein (Hescham), et la question est très délicate à traiter. En principe vous ne devez jamais engager ni compromettre le Gouvernement Français.

Vous devez toujours présenter les conseils et les encouragements que donneriez à Sidi Hussein comme émanant de vous ou des commerçants qui vous envoient et qui desireraient de le voir devenir un Prince puissant pour pouvoir traiter avec lui de grandes affaires, lui indiquent le moyen d'arriver.

Vous pourrez, en lui expliquant comme quoi les Traités faits par Sidi Beyrouk n'ont pas abouti, lui faire comprendre qu'il est certain qu'il échouera aussi dans ses tentatives de rapport direct avec le Gouvernement Français à cause des difficultés du mouillage.

(Santa Cruz de) Agadir est un port magnifique, le seul véritable port qui existe
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sur toute la côte nord-ouest de l'Afrique. Le bateau-à-vapeur de l'État Français le "Newton" y est allé il y a quelques mois avec une mission hydrographique. Son commandant a été émerveillé de la beauté du lieu au point de vue de la sécurité, et de la facilité du mouillage. Agadir, ou Ste. Croix, fondé autrefois par les Portugais appartient aujourd'hui à l'Empereur du Maroc. Le port est fermé au commerce Européen depuis la fondation de Mogador qui date de soixante-dix ans environ.

L'Empereur refuse de l'ouvrir parce que la réouverture de l'exportation par ce port serait la ruine de Mogador.

La domination de Muley Abderrahman à Agadir est fort peu assise, quoiqu'il y entretienne un Caïd et quelques soldats en garnison.

Agadir est entouré de tribus plus ou moins hostiles à l'Empereur du Maroc, qui ne permettent pas toujours le passage des troupes pour le renouvellement de la garnison. Il paraît que ces mêmes tribus sont sous l'influence de Sidi Hussein (Hescham), et qu'il pourrait tenter avec succès un coup de main pour s'emparer d'Agadir que Muley Abderrahman serait impuissant à reprendre.

Ce conseil donné à Sidi Hussein (Hescham) ne le surprendrait pas; il y songe depuis longtemps. L'Empereur le craint, et dans l'impossibilité où il est de faire parvenir par terre les troupes destinées à renforcer la garnison d'Agadir pour se défendre contre Sidi Hussein (Hescham) il a tenté d'en faire parvenir par mer en se servant des bateaux à vapeur de commerce Français qui font de puis peu le service du Maroc. Comme l'intérêt des négociants à qui ces bateaux à vapeur appartiennent est de favoriser Sidi Hussein on a refusé, et on refusera à l'Empereur du Maroc le transport de ses troupes.

Si Sidi Hussein (Hescham) a sur les tribus qui l'entourent une autorité aussi forte et incontestée qu'il l'assure, il n'a qu'à oser pour s'emparer d'Agadir. Vous pourriez en échange de ses produits et comme opération commerciale lui porter, s'il le demande, de la poudre et des armes en telle quantité qu'il le voudra, à l'heure qu'il est, les arsenaux Français mettent en vente à très bon marché beaucoup de fusils et de munitions.

Le Gouvernement Français qui ne traiterait pas actuellement avec Sidi Hussein (Hescham), parce qu'il n'a point de port à nous offrir, n'aurait pas à s'inquiéter de ses luttes avec ses voisins. Comme le ferait tout Gouvernement neutre, il accepterait un fait accompli. J'ai tout lieu de supposer qu'il traiterait avec Sidi Hussein (Hescham) devenu Sultan d'Agadir, et la protection positive et efficace que le Gouvernement Français lui accorderait, portant dans le pays qui serait sous sa domination, à peu près tout le commerce qui fait aujourd'hui la richesse de Muley Abderrahman, Sidi Hussein rivaliserait avec avantage avec cet Empereur qui, mal conseillé, n'a pas pu reconnaître de quel côté étaient ses véritables intérêts.

Pour me résumer, il n'y a pas lieu pour Sidi Hussein (Hescham) à espérer de faire un Traité de Commerce avec le Gouvernement Français tant qu'il n'a pas amélioré sa position en ayant un bon port pour communiquer et pour offrir un abri sur à nos navires de l'État. Comme il n'y a de port qu'Agadir l'avenir de Sidi Hussein (Hescham) est tout dans la possession de cette ville. Le jour où il s'en serait rendu maître, un de ses parents envoyé en France serait reçu par le Gouvernement, qui écouterait ses ouvertures pour un Protectorat, et pour faire un Traité de Commerce. Jusque-là politiquement il n'y a rien à faire, et commercialement la tâche sera plus difficile.

Je termine en vous répétant encore que vous devez présenter le projet à Sidi Hussein comme un conseil émanant de vous et de moi, car je ne puis pas avoir aucune mission officielle pour traiter d'affaires aussi délicates, et que toute imprudence qui tendrait à compromettre le Gouvernement Français auprès de l'autorité Marocaine serait désavouée par lui.

[Here follows the commercial part of the same.]

No. 115.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Count Corti.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1886.

WITH reference to my note of the 27th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis relative to the alleged intention of the French to make a military port at Bizerta.*

I have, &c.

(Signed)

IDDESLEIGH.

* No. 108.

No. 116

Memorandum by Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Confidential.)

THE copy of the letter, without date, inclosed in Mr. Ferry's letter to Sir J. H. Drummond Hay, containing instructions from some member of the French Government to an Agent, regarding the project of establishing a Protectorate in the Soos, appears to be genuine. The letter must have been written, however, thirty years ago, for Muley Abderrahman is mentioned as being the Sultan at that time.

There is little doubt that the French have had, and still entertain, ambitious projects in Morocco, and on more than one occasion I reported to Her Majesty's Government that I had heard of French Agents being sent into the Soos country to induce the Chiefs to cede or open a port to French traders.

With this knowledge, and the frequent attempts made by Spanish, British, and latterly by German subjects to trade with the Soos, I had urged the Sultan to establish his authority in that province and to open Agadir and other sites as trading ports. This advice led to the campaigns in Soos of 1882, and 1886, though the success of the Sultan's arms has only been partial, for by last accounts that district remains in an unsettled state, and no port has yet been opened to trade.

One of the chief objections, I had always considered, to the British establishment at Cape Juby, and to Her Majesty's Government acknowledging it as a British Colony, was that it might give a pretext to France and other nations to take possession of a site on the Soos coast, where the Sultan's authority has always been of a doubtful character, and that in case the British Government were to support any remonstrance on the part of the Sultan, it might be said that they (the British Government) had set the example in sanctioning the retention of Cape Juby, which the Sultan declares is within his dominions, and that it was sold by one of His Sheressian Majesty's subjects, Sheikh Beyrouk, a Chief of the same family who had offered to sell a site to the French in past years.

Cid Hussein Ben Hashem, the Great Chief of the Soos country, died this year during the late campaign of the Sultan in Soos, and a feud sprung up between the sons and relatives of that Chief, which by last accounts continues, and the country is in a very disturbed state.

I concur in the views expressed by Mr. Ferry regarding the action which the Spanish Government might be compelled to adopt in self-defence, should France take possession of any point in Morocco.

I believe that the Spanish Government and I know that M. Diodado, their present Representative at Tangier, are opposed to projects of conquest and annexation in Morocco, but I am of opinion that they would be compelled, by the force of circumstances and public opinion in Spain, to come to terms with France in partitioning Morocco, should the latter Power commence the work of spoliation.

There is no doubt, in my mind, that M. Ferry had intended to establish a Protectorate in Morocco, as had been done in Tunis and that the plan was thwarted, when a French squadron appeared in Tangier Bay to support the insurrection in Anjira and the pretensions of the Sherref of Wazan, who is a French protégé, by the active steps taken by the Sultan, at my advice, in rousing the attention of foreign Powers to the danger which threatened his independence and the integrity of his Empire.

I have no knowledge of any plan the present French Government may now have for carrying out ambitious projects in Morocco, but I should indeed be much surprised to learn that they had abandoned all hopes of becoming masters of the Straits and southern shores of the Mediterranean, should a fitting opportunity present itself when England and other Powers have their hands full. I have dwelt much upon this subject in my Reports in past years, for it appears to me that so long as the power, wealth, and even existence of the British Empire depend upon her shipping and the freedom of navigation, we cannot remain passive spectators, whilst two Powers like France and Spain were combining to make themselves masters of one of the most important passages leading to the Mediterranean and to our Eastern possessions.

I have on more than one occasion ventured to express a hope that Her Majesty's Government, when the question of the neutralization of the Suez Canal, &c., was on the tapis, should take advantage of the occasion to endeavour to come also to a formal understanding with other Powers to insure the integrity of Morocco, which commands the Straits of Gibraltar, and if such an understanding can be effected, to require that Morocco should be opened to trade, and that reforms and improvements

should be introduced for the benefit of civilization and development of that fine country.

With regard to Agadir, which is no doubt the best port, and indeed the only harbour where there is some shelter for shipping on the west coast, I have to recommend that the Sultan should again be urged to open it to trade, and thus to meet the wishes of the Soos population, which would be the best mode of thwarting the designs of those who seek to encourage rebellion against the Sultan's authority in that province. In such case His Sherceefian Majesty might arm the fort, which is naturally strong, with modern guns, and leave a garrison of disciplined troops and artillery in the place of the rubble which now occupies it.

I have to suggest that Mr Green, on his approaching mission to the Moorish Court, should endeavour to find out whether M. Féraud, in his late visit, has thrown out any hints about the cession of a site to France on the coast of Soos and he might also be enabled to learn through members of the Court, or perhaps through Cid Boulekhir, the language and proceedings of the Frenchmen* who visited Soos before and during the late campaign of the Sultan, and also of the French military officers who accompanied the expedition, and have hitherto acted as spies and agents of the French Government.

I am told that M. Castelen, on his late visit to Paris, held language regarding the common interests, he alleged, Spain and France had in Morocco, and that they should endeavour to act in concert in that country.

I have always thought it desirable that we should endeavour to induce Spain to pursue an identical policy with us in Morocco, and I think it might be advisable to come to a better understanding with that Power upon this subject, and to endeavour to ascertain whether the Spanish Government have knowledge of any fresh underhand proceedings of the French Government or its Agents in Morocco which might lead to complications hereafter.

The Italian Government and their Representative at Tangier, M. Scovasso, are also much opposed to any attempt of the French to take possession of territory in Morocco.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

December 3, 1886.

No. 117.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 826. Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 33 of November 20, 1886: ante, No. 108.]

No. 118

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 827.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of note to Count Corti dated November 27, 1886: ante, No. 113.]

No. 119.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 828. Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 118 of November 17, 1886: ante, No. 103.]

* One French traveller was disguised as a native Jew of Morocco, and travelled throughout the Soos.—
J. H. D. H.

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No. 120.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 817.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of note to Count Corti, dated November 27, 1886: ante, No. 113.]

No. 121

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 818. Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 33 of November 20, 1886: ante, No. 108.]

No. 122.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 819. Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 118, Confidential, of November 17, 1886: ante, No. 103.]

No. 123.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 46. Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 118, Confidential, of November 17, 1886: ante, No. 103.]

No. 124.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Scott.

(No. 547. Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 118, Confidential, of November 17, 1886: ante, No. 103.]

No. 125.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Sir R. Thompson.

(Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 33 of November 20, 1886: ante, No. 103.]

No. 126.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Mr. Macgregor.

(Confidential.) Foreign Office, December 4, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 33 of November 20, 1886: ante, No. 103.]

No. 127.

Sir J. Pauncefoot to Mr. E. Porro Ferro.

Sir,
I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, in regard to the designs of certain foreign Powers upon Morocco, and to state that the inclosure was forwarded to Sir J. D. Hay

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOOT.

No. 128.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 74. Confidential.)

My Lord,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Matthews having let it be understood that the action taken by the Diplomatic Body at Tangier for enabling him to refute the charges of corrupt practices brought against the United States' Consulate here was distasteful to him, the foreign Representatives came to the conclusion that they must abstain from further interference in the matter.

Last, however, hereafter, the question should, in some way, be reopened, I think it right to furnish your Lordship with copies of three letters, one from the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires and two from Mr. Matthews, regarding their objections to the proceedings of the Diplomatic Body.

The documents on which, as Mr. White informed your Lordship in his despatch No. 60 of the 22nd September last, the Moor's charges against the United States' Consulate were based, have not yet been examined by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, presumably owing to his Excellency's continued illness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

*Mr. Matthews to M. Scorsano.**Consulat-Général des Etats-Uns d'Amérique,**Tanger, le 20 Septembre, 1886.*

Honorable Doyen et très cher Collègue,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre copie d'une lettre de notre honorable collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie, M. de Reglia, au bas de laquelle il me dit que vous, M. le Doyen, m'auriez indiqué les motifs de son exclusion et de celle de son Excellence le Ministre de Portugal des séances tenues à la Légation d'Italie pour concerter la teneur de la correspondance que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en votre nom et au nom d'autres honorables collègues, au sujet du libelle diffamatoire du nommé El-Hlou, motifs que M. de Reglia ignore.

Or, sachant qu'à ce sujet il y a eu à votre Légation une Conférence plus complète à laquelle je n'ai pu assister, puisqu'il s'agissait de moi-même, je me permets de vous prier, M. le Doyen, de vouloir bien me faire communiquer le procès-verbal de vos délibérations, ainsi que de me donner quelques éclaircissements sur l'exclusion de notre honorable collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie des réunions antérieures.

En vous remerciant d'avance, je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) F. A. MATTHEWS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

M. de Reglia to Mr. Matthews.

(Confidentielle.)

Monsieur et cher Collègue,

Tanger, le 6 Septembre, 1886.

POUR démentir les faux bruits parvenus à nos oreilles au sujet de ma non-intervention dans la malencontreuse affaire qui met depuis quelques jours en émoi notre

ville, autrement si paisible, et pour dissiper tous les doutes sur ma prétendue impossibilité pour ce qui regarde la dignité du Corps auquel j'ai l'honneur d'appartenir, je m'empresse de vous rassurer sur mes anciens sentiments de collégialité en vous expliquant les motifs de mon abstention dans une affaire qui ne me paraît nullement de ma compétence.

Lorsque j'ai reçu la lettre d'un inconnu, qui signait "Abd-el-Hlou," et que son Excellence le Gouverneur de notre ville, alors en visite chez moi, me dit que c'était un repris de justice qui la signait, cette lettre m'a fait l'impression d'un libelle diffamatoire dans le fond, inacceptable dans la forme qu'elle [sic] était présentée.

J'allais la repousser, mais le porteur étant disparu sans faire connaître l'adresse du libelliste. Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire que j'étais indigné de l'effronterie d'un pareil individu qui, sans être connu par moi, violait toutes les formes en osant d'envoyer par un tiers un libelle au Représentant d'une Grande Puissance pour solliciter son intervention auprès de Sa Majesté le Sultan, dont il diffamait le Gouvernement, et pour intercéder grâce [sic] pour lui auprès de vous qu'il calomniant. Etre igno- méthode de formuler une prière!

On dit que la tournure du style de la prière n'est pas Arabe, mais à coup sûr la logique n'y brille pas par sa force persuasive. De faire une démarche qu'on ne qualifie d'officielle ou officielle, individuelle ou collective, sur la base d'un pareil galimatias, ce me paraissait pas indiqué; ne pouvant pas d'ailleurs restituer cette lettre, je l'ai considérée comme nulle et non-avenue. Mais en admettant même qu'elle fût correcte et acceptable dans la forme de son exhibition, que faire? quelle attitude prendre? comment me mettre en campagne y poussé par un repris de justice? Comment déguiser mon immixtion dans une affaire pareille sans avoir l'air d'appuyer moralement le libelliste et lui prêter une certaine force sans froisser un de mes collègues? sans occasionner un conflit de juridiction? sans empiéter sur les attributions d'autrui? Toute démarche commencée même sous les formes les plus délicates et réservées m'aurait nécessairement amené de degrés en degrés à une intervention officielle devant un Tribunal incompétent à juger sur les affaires officielles du Consulat-Général des Etats-Uns d'Amérique. De toute façon que j'envisage [sic] la chose d'un point de vue au moins inopportun et superflu d'offrir mon appui officiel pour obtenir la punition d'un libelliste accusant un Consul-Général, et par ricochet, dit-on, tout le Corps Diplomatique, comme si j'aurais pu douter que l'autorité locale fût capable d'un déni de justice, et que le Consulat-Général d'Amérique et son Gouvernement n'aurait pu obtenir par sa [sic] propre force la satisfaction voulue, et n'aurait eu de lui-même à sauvegarder le prestige de l'autorité qu'on cherchait à offusquer.

Ce n'est donc pas par défaut, mais bien par excès de collégialité que je me suis abstenu, cher Monsieur et collègue, d'une intervention quelconque dans cette affaire, et je vous prie de le croire en agréant l'assurance de mes sentiments sincères de collégialité et de considération.

Votre bien dévoué,
(Signé) P. DE REGLIA

P.S.—Quant à la demande contenue dans votre lettre officielle d'aujourd'hui "Comment se fait-il que le Doyen du Corps Diplomatique ne m'ait pas invité aux réunions qu'il a cru devoir convoquer au sujet du libelle El-Hlou," j'en ignore le motif et par conséquent je pris [sic] M. le Doyen par intérim de vouloir bien vous le communiquer directement.

P. DE R

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

*Mr. Matthews to M. Scorsano.**Consulat-Général des Etats-Uns d'Amérique,**Tanger, le 4 Octobre, 1886.*

Cher Monsieur le Doyen et Collègue,

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'envoyer hier, du 22 Septembre écoulé, avec le procès-verbal de la séance, tenue par le Corps Diplomatique à la Légation d'Italie le 17 du même mois, ce dont je vous remercie.

Dans ce procès-verbal, j'observe à mon étonnement que la deuxième page contient un passage aussi déplacé que non fondé. Le second paragraphe dit ainsi: "Afin de

* See Inclosure 10 in No. 76.

mettre un terme à de semblables procédés, qui se reproduisent trop souvent à l'égard du Représentant des États-Unis, &c." S'il s'agit du procédé d'El-Halu pur et simple, c'est la première fois à ma connaissance qu'on ait jamais osé de [sic] me calomnier de telle façon et en cela même, El-Halu n'avait jamais en l'audace de le faire, sans y être poussé par des intrigants dont je me réserve de dévoiler les agissements inqualifiables.

Si au contraire le paragraphe se réfère à la généralité des calomniateurs, je me permets d'affirmer que le Consulat-Général des États-Unis a été le dernier attaqué, et n'est nullement l'exception, car tour à tour Messieurs [sic] Perdicaris et ses complices ont pris en main les Légations de la Grande-Bretagne, de France, d'Italie, de Portugal, &c., et en dernier lieu, le Consulat-Général des États-Unis. Or, cette clause n'ayant pas raison d'être et la considérant directement offensive, je demande la suppression des mots à l'égard du Représentant des États-Unis d'Amérique, et proteste contre leur introduction sur le procès-verbal.

Quant à la nature des démarches faites auprès de moi et que vous voulez bien qualifier d'officieuses et amicales, ces démarches dis-je revêtent un caractère tout au moins difficile à expliquer, car le Doyen *ad interim* du Corps Diplomatique m'adressant en son nom comme tel et au nom des collègues qui avaient assisté à des réunions incomplètes à [sic] lieu d'être comprise comme démarche officielle, surtout là n'il [sic] s'agit de la suggestion d'un soldat de chaque Légation.

Du reste, les observations notées par les honorables collègues d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Portugal font foi que je ne suis pas le seul de cet avis, car ces honorables collègues comprennent [sic] que le but de M. Perdicaris et ses complices n'a été autre que d'agiter le Corps Diplomatique à agir officieusement ou officiellement, amicalement ou autrement, il suffisait de faire du bruit pour qu'ils puissent interpréter les événements à leur façon et ils n'ont pas manqué de profiter de tout pour lancer des dépêches télégraphiques qui feront comprendre comme ils désirent l'attitude du Corps Diplomatique.

Je ne veux pas dire pour un seul moment que les intentions des honorables collègues, n'ont pas été tout ce qu'ils veulent bien les représenter. Mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que les intentions ne sont point en harmonie avec les faits de certaines démarches faites auprès du Ministre du Sultan telle que la présence d'un Délégué de la Légation d'Italie à la remise des pièces faite à Sidi Torra par El-Halu et quelques-uns de ses complices, et l'intention de faire assister un Délégué au dépouillement de ces mêmes pièces.

En résumé, puisque les honorables Représentants se réservent de soumettre à leurs Gouvernements respectifs s'il y a lieu toutes les pièces relatives à cette affaire, je demande, et en cela m'appuyant sur mon droit du plus intéressé, que la présente lettre ainsi que certaines autres pièces que j'aurai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir soient attachées au dossier afin qu'il soit remis au complet et que tout malentendu à ce sujet soit évité.

Agrées, &c.
(Signé) F. A. MATTHEWS.

No. 129.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 47. Confidential.)

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 74, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, reporting further as to the charges against the United States' Consul at Tangier.

I have to state to you that, under the circumstances detailed therein, I consider the decision of the foreign Representatives to abstain from further interference to have been judicious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 120*.

*Memorandum of Language held by Mr. Porro Ferro to Sir J. H. Drummond Hay,
December 8.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 10, 1886.)*

(Confidential.)

AFTER thanking M. Ferro for the interesting information he had imparted in his letter to me of the 23rd ultimo, I inquired whether he had grounds for believing that the French Government had entertained, at a later period than 1856, the project of taking possession of territory on the coast of Soos, and, if so, whether he could make known to me, confidentially, how he became possessed of such information.

M. Ferro replied that he had been an agent in Morocco of the wealthy French firm of Messrs. Léon Cohen, of Marseilles, who do a large business both in the East and Morocco; that about the time when the French Government took possession of Tunis, M. Léon Cohen had pointed out to M. Ferry the important advantages which would accrue to French trade if Agadeer was taken possession of, and that it might lead to the establishment of a French Protectorate over the Soos country.

M. Ferry having called upon M. Cohen to suggest how such a scheme could be brought about, the latter requested M. Ferro, as being better acquainted with Morocco, to accompany him to the Minister.

The scheme proposed was that a French trading-vessel, with merchandize on board, should run ashore near Agadeer, as if driven by weather; that it was to be expected the natives would pillage the vessel, and that as the Sultan's authorities on that coast would not have the power to afford redress, it would give good grounds for sending immediately a vessel of war to Agadeer to take possession of that port, the best on the coast of Morocco; and in such case the inhabitants of the neighbouring districts, who are dissatisfied with the Sultan's Government, if assured of French protection and the opening of a port for trade, would throw off their allegiance to the Sultan and accept the French Protectorate.

M. Ferro said M. Ferry listened with attention to this scheme, and replied that their hands were then full from their occupation of Tunis; but his attention would be given at a seasonable time to further French interests in Morocco.

M. Ferro assured me, in the most positive manner, that this conversation had taken place in his presence, and therefore he had thought it his duty to make it known confidentially, through me, to the British Government at the present critical moment of affairs in Europe.

Having asked M. Ferro whether he had any further information to impart, either regarding French or Spanish designs in Morocco, he informed me that when he visited Madrid at the time Count Hatzfeldt was accredited as German Minister to the Spanish Court, he (M. Ferro) had been on very intimate terms with M. Artimiey, the late editor of the Spanish journal "Imparcial," which was supposed to be an organ of the Government; that M. Artimiey was a constant visitor and on friendly terms with Count Hatzfeldt, who, M. Ferro observed, was no friend of the English. Count Hatzfeldt had pointed out to the Spanish Government the advisability of their taking possession of the Morocco coast on the straits, and thus forestalling the ambitious designs of the French; but that in such case, Count Hatzfeldt said, it would be expected that Tangier and the coast to the westward,* up to Cape Spartel, should be ceded to Germany; adding that Gibraltar, in the present improved state of artillery, could be no longer in time of war a port of refuge for shipping passing the straits,† but that Tangier, properly fortified, might become so, as there would be facilities of provisioning the fortress both by land and sea.

M. Ferro assured me that M. Artimiey had frequently communicated to him, confidentially, the language held by Count Hatzfeldt regarding Morocco, and that the conviction had remained on his mind that either France, Spain, or Germany would seek for a pretext, when the hands of England were full, for taking possession of Tangier.

I thanked M. Ferro for his information, and said that, should he ever have an opportunity of obtaining correct information regarding the schemes of France or other Governments in Morocco, I should feel obliged by his communicating them to me, adding, however, that I should not care to receive an account of the suppositions of any person regarding future eventualities unless supported by satisfactory proofs that they were founded on correct information.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

December 8, 1886.

* About 8 miles.—J. H. D. H.

† The shipping in Gibraltar Bay can be sheltered from the Queen's Chair or other points on the Spanish coast, and would be a shelter.—J. H. D. H.

No. 130.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 123. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, December 8, 1886.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 74, Very Confidential, of November 23; and No. 47, Confidential, to Mr. Kirby Green, dated December 8, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 128 and 129.]

No. 131.

Mr. Macgregor to Sir J. Panncoft.—(Received December 11.)

(Confidential)

Admiralty, December 10, 1886.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 29th November and the 4th instant respecting the rumoured preparations by the French for making a port at Bizerta.

My Lords request that you will move the Earl of Iddesleigh to cause them to be informed whether any other understanding exists between England and France than that implied in Lord Granville's official despatches in 1861 ("Tunis No 2"), presented to the Houses of Parliament.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 132.

Messrs. A. F. and R. W. Tweedie to Sir J. Panncoft.—(Received December 11.)

Sir,

5, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, December 10, 1886.

WITH reference to our recent correspondence on the subject of the claims of the General Hamida Ben Ayad of Tunis, and your last letter to us of the 8th September, we venture once again to address you on this matter, inasmuch as we hear from our correspondent in Paris that he understands that no communication relative to the affairs of the General has yet been received at the British Embassy in Paris from M. de Freycinet since the case was recommended by your kind attention in October last to the favourable consideration of the French Government.

As we understand the situation at present, Sir R. L. Playfair has received his instructions from the British Government to proceed to Tunis on behalf of General Hamida Ben Ayad, but it would seem that no instructions have gone out to the French Resident in Tunis from Paris, without which no conclusion can be arrived at.

We should be glad to be able to write General Hamida Ben Ayad, with the true position of affairs, and we trust that the great importance of this matter will be accepted as our apology for troubling you again.

We are, &c.

(Signed)

A. F. AND R. W. TWEEDIE.

No. 133.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 76.)

Tangier, December 6, 1886.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I learn from a trustworthy source that M. Feraud, the French Minister, has brought under the Sultan's notice a proposal that His Shercehan Majesty should build a public market-place outside the frontier town of Ouchda, and that this market should be administered by a French as well as a Moorish Governor.

M. Feraud, I believe, maintains that by this system of dual Government, or, as I understand he styles it, "faire la police à deux," all the differences that are continually arising between the natives of the frontier districts would be quickly and satisfactorily smoothed away.

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I have no doubt that the proposal is intended to foreshadow and accustom the Sultan and his people with the idea of a French Protectorate of Morocco, but I have not thought it necessary to point out to the Moorish Government M. Féraud's real object.

The Sultan, left to himself, is sure to resist all proposals, be they what they may, and come they whence they may. There will be time enough to assist and encourage the Sultan in his resistance, if expedient, when M. Féraud's proposals are put forward not as counsels but as commands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 134.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord,

Tangier, December 8, 1886.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 40 of the 25th October last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the accounts of the results of the Sultan's recent expedition into the Soos country are most conflicting. Though Mr. Mackenzie's statements of horrors and barbarities having been systematically pursued by the Sultan's expeditionary force are categorically denied on trustworthy authority, still, it must not be understood that the march of the Moorish troops was unattended with acts of oppression and severity such as might be termed cruelties, and even atrocities, in more civilized countries.

The Moorish Government is a very rough and ready type of Administration, and as long as it lasts in its present form it is a mere loss of time to discuss whether, when asserting its authority, it has or has not acted in an arbitrary and violent manner.

Two expeditions have now been carried out by the present Sultan with the object of establishing his jurisdiction over the Soos country, and for the purpose of opening to commerce two of its ports, Agadir and Assaka. These expeditions as yet have resulted in neither of these ends; the Sultan's newly-appointed Governors have either been killed or driven away by the natives, and the ports still remain closed against the enterprise of foreign merchants.

A third expedition will probably have to be undertaken before the Sultan can make good his Ministers' assertion (*vide* Mr. White's despatch No. 5, Africa, of the 13th August last) that "His Majesty's authority is now established in the Soos district *de facto* as well as *de jure*, and not only in that district, but also in the districts extending far beyond it."

I naturally concur in every word of advice tendered by my predecessor, Sir John Drummond Hay, to the Sultan about the wisdom of opening not only the Soos, but every portion of his Empire, to the beneficial effects of commerce.

I only demur to Sir John Drummond Hay's estimate of the results to arise from my adopting a similar course of counsels to the Moorish Government.

The present Sultan, as well as a number of his predecessors, remained utterly deaf to all the representations and entreaties in this direction of Sir John Drummond Hay, until an enterprising Englishman was led to establish a trading factory at a point of the West Coast of Africa well beyond the Moorish Empire. This factory was, however, sufficiently near Morocco to tap the trade of districts which had hitherto been forced to look for an issue for their produce, and for a supply of European commodities, to the distant port of Mogador.

It was thus only then, after more than forty years of ceaseless pouring of advice, that Sir John Drummond Hay found his arguments heeded at the Moorish Court. But even now I am not prepared to accept as certain that my predecessor's advice has been acted upon in a loyal manner. If it is a fact, as maintained by the Sultan, that he has subjugated the Soos, it is also a fact that he has done as yet nothing to open that country to trade.

It may, therefore, turn out that His Majesty, considering that he has sufficiently intimidated not only the Soos people, but even the tribes beyond his Empire, to prevent them trading with the English factory at Cape Juby, will turn once again a deaf ear to British advice, and nurse the port of Mogador as before.

It is for these reasons that I am not prepared to place too much value on counsels to be given by me to the Sultan. There is no need, though, that I should withhold the advice, but it ought to be accompanied with the assurance that Her Majesty's Govern-

ment will do nothing to assist the Sultan in limiting the trading issues of North-western Africa; that even Her Majesty's Government may take measures to prevent His Shereefian Majesty interfering with the freedom of intercourse with the interior of the British factory at Cape Juby.

If, on the other hand, the Sultan should show an inclination to pursue an enlightened course, I might be authorized to state to him that I would do my best to enable His Majesty and the North-west African Company to come to an understanding about the management of the Cape Juby trade.

I consider it would be a waste of time to attempt to compass the purchase of the factory by the Sultan. The Moorish Government's idea of the value of money is quite a thing apart and beyond the comprehension of a London Limited Liability Company on the look-out for a fair profit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 135.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 851.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 16, 1886.

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Egerton No. 670 of the 6th October, in regard to the case of General Hamida Ben Ayad, I transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further letter from the General's agents in this country.*

I leave it to your Excellency's discretion to decide whether you should call the attention of the French Government again to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 136.

Sir P. Currie to Sir R. L. Playfair.

(No. 8.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, December 16, 1886.

WITH reference to Sir T. V. Lister's despatch No. 3 of the 30th October, I am directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a further letter from the agents in this country of General Hamida Ben Ayad, in regard to the General's case.*

I am to state that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, to whom a copy of Messrs. Tweedie's letter has been sent, has been directed to use his discretion as to bringing the matter again to the attention of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 137.

Sir P. Currie to Messrs. Tweedie.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, December 16, 1886.

I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 10th instant in regard to the case of General Hamida Ben Ayad, and to state to you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, to whom a copy of your letter has been sent, has been directed to bring the matter again to the notice of the French Government, if his Excellency thinks it advisable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

* No. 132.

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The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 330. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, December 17, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 74, Confidential, of November 23; and No. 47, Confidential, to ditto, dated December 8, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 128 and 129.]

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir L. West.

(No. 246. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, December 18, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 74, Confidential, of November 23; and No. 47, Confidential, to ditto, dated December 8, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 128 and 129.]

*The Earl of Iddesleigh to Mr. Petre.**

(No. 27. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, December 19, 1886.

[Transmits copies of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 74, Confidential, of November 23; and No. 47, Confidential, to ditto, dated December 8, 1886: *ante*, Nos. 128 and 129.]

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 641.)

Paris, December 21, 1886.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 851 of the 10th instant in regard to the case of General Hamida Ben Ayad.

It is stated in the letter from General Hamida Ben Ayad's agents in England, of which your Lordship has been so good as to send me a copy, that Consul-General Sir Lambert Playfair has received his instructions from Her Majesty's Government to proceed to Tunis on behalf of the General; and in a despatch from Sir Lambert Playfair (No. 6 of the 6th ultimo), which passed through my hands under flying seal, he informed your Lordship, with reference to this matter, that he should go to Tunis immediately after the arrival there of the new Resident-General.

In these circumstances, I think that it will be unadvisable to make a fresh representation to the French Government until your Lordship shall have received a Report on the subject from Sir Lambert Playfair.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

P.S.—M. Massicaut, the new Resident-General at Tunis, is expected to take possession of his office there to-morrow.

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Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 79. Confidential.)

Tangier, December 14, 1886.

My Lord,

IN Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 118, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, a copy of which your Lordship has done me the honour of communicating to me through your

* Also to Viscount Lyons (No. 265), Sir E. Males (No. 568), Mr. Goschen (No. 27) Mr. Corbett (No. 27), and Mr. Phipps (No. 288).

Lordship's despatch No. 46, Confidential, of the 4th instant, it is said that Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, had expressed the wish to confer some day with him (Sir Clare Ford) on the subject of the interests of the foreign Powers in Morocco.

In view of this expected conversation between Señor Moret and Her Majesty's Representative, I venture to trouble your Lordship with a few remarks which have occurred to me since my arrival here as to Spanish policy and interests in Morocco.

Until French action in Tunis alarmed the Spanish Government, the Representative of Spain here played the part of a champion of progress, and essayed to impose himself on the Moorish Government as holding an exceptional and preponderating position over the other foreign Representatives.

Now the Spanish Legation declares that it has no other policy but to maintain the integrity of the Moorish Empire at any price. This would be a satisfactory change, provided it was intended to be permanent and was being pursued with intelligence. But I do not believe that it is at all likely to be of any duration, nor do I think that it is being followed up in an enlightened manner.

I infer that M. Diosdado, the Spanish Minister here, has taken up the cry of the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco, not because he wishes his Government to give up all proclivities of annexation, but in order to secure support among foreign Governments in checking the ripening designs of France, and which he fears may come to a head before those of Spain have even germinated. I fear, indeed, the desire to support the Sultan's rule has nothing healthy in it. It is prompted by the feeling that what the Spaniard cannot carry out or digest must lie useless for all others.

Therefore, when Señor Moret wishes to consider the interests of all foreign Powers in Morocco, I should be disposed to hold him to defining clearly that he is prepared to admit that there are general interests, and that those of Spain are not to be accorded an exceptional position. It would also be well to let him understand that, whilst persistence in the *status quo* is impossible, the maintenance of the integrity of the Empire of Morocco is most desirable.

The general foreign interests in this country—with the sole exception of those of France, Spain having now adhered to the majority—are the development of its great natural resources without giving rise to any changes of the present territorial tenure, improvement of Moorish rule, and perfect equality of advantages for the subjects of all nations.

I am excessively suspicious as to the object of the Spanish Government in endeavouring to give a fictitious value to its material interests in Morocco. Though, in fact, its commerce and navigation with this country come a very long way behind those of Great Britain, and even of France, which is a bad second to the first, we see the Spanish authorities at Tangier and other Moorish ports supplying their scanty and squalid communities with all the paraphernalia of the most busy and thriving commercial centres. Here, at Tangier, within but a short space of time, the Spanish officials have called into existence a Chamber of Commerce, a Life-saving Institute, a hospital, a college for propagating the healing art, and several other analogous undertakings.

Contracts with Steam-ship Companies for increasing the mail service with Spain are talked of, and in the Spanish press the Spanish commercial community here is depicted as on a par with those of the Peninsula in London and New York.

Nevertheless, as I have already intimated, these Spanish commercial and other institutions in Morocco may be fitly styled as paper ones, and have probably been merely established or talked of, under Government patronage, in order to keep up a fiction in political circles of preponderant Spanish interests.

If Señor Moret arrogates for Spain a footing of superiority here, Sir Clare Ford will know on what grounds it is assumed, and its real worth.

Her Majesty's Representative at Madrid should also bear in mind that, whilst the policy of maintaining the integrity of the Moorish Empire would be most valuable, the attempt to confuse that policy with that of supporting the Moorish Government in all its present vices and ultra-retrograde tendencies would be mischievous, impracticable, and disastrous.

Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister in Morocco, is thus confusing the two policies. In his alarm that the Sultan may be induced by France to accept French protection and guidance, he thinks the Sultan must not be disheartened in his endeavours to exclude himself from foreign encroachments by finding all the foreign Representatives urging him towards progress.

The general interests of foreign Powers in Morocco, I am sure, would be better served, and the Sultan's power abroad and over his own people permanently strengthened and consolidated, if His Shereefian Majesty could hear but united counsels from the

foreign Representatives—counsels that should be pressed in a manner that could not be evaded, and which would quickly do away with all the present iniquities and anomalies of the Moorish administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 143.

Sir L. Playfair to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord,
Algiers, December 21, 1886.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Sir Julian Pauncefote's despatch No. 6, dated the 16th instant, inclosing a letter from Messrs. Tweedie on the subject of General Hamida Ben Ayad's affairs.

I think Messrs. Tweedie should be informed that there has been no delay whatever on our part. No Resident-General has been at Tunis since the summer. I went there on purpose to urge these and other matters, and have just returned without being able to do so, as M. Massicault's departure for his post was delayed owing to the recent change of Government in France. I intend returning to Tunis soon after the new year, and Messrs. Tweedie may be assured that I shall leave nothing undone to forward his client's interest.

At the same time, I cannot conceal my apprehension that, without some recommendation from the Government of France to the Resident-General, my intervention may possibly be in vain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 144.

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 650.)
My Lord,
Paris, December 24, 1886.
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a despatch respecting the case of General Hamid Bonayad, which I have received this morning under flying seal from Consul-General Sir Lambert Playfair.

In my despatch No. 641 of the 21st instant, I said that I thought it would be unadvisable to make a fresh representation to the French Government upon the case until your Lordship should have received a Report from Sir Lambert Playfair on the subject.

I observe that in the despatch I am now forwarding Sir Lambert expresses an apprehension that, without some recommendation from the Government of France to the new Resident-General, his intervention at Tunis may possibly be in vain. This being the case, I purpose to take an early opportunity of directing the attention of the recently appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Flourens, to the matter, feeling sure that your Lordship will approve of my doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 145.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 570.)
Foreign Office, December 25, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 76 of December 6, 1886: ante, No. 133.]

• No. 143.

No. 146.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. S. Lumley.

(No. 333. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, December 28, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 76 of December 6, 1886: ante, No. 133.]

No. 147.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir E. Malet.

(No. 569. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, December 28, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 76 of December 6, 1886: ante, No. 133.]

No. 148.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 151. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, December 28, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 76 of December 6, 1886: ante, No. 133.]

No. 149.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Confidential.)
Foreign Office, December 28, 1886.
[Transmits copy of Mr. Kirby Green's No. 76 of December 6, 1886: ante, No. 133.]

No. 150.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Mr. Macgregor.

(Confidential.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, December 29, 1886.
I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter of the 10th instant, in which you express the desire of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to be informed whether there exists between England and France any understanding in regard to Bizerta other than that implied in Lord Granville's official despatches in 1881 ("Tunis No. 2"), presented to both Houses of Parliament.

I am, in reply, to request that you will inform their Lordships that there is no other understanding, but their attention should be called to the further correspondence upon this subject ("Tunis No. 6, 1881, and No. 1, 1884"), which has also been published, and of which a copy is sent herewith for convenience of reference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 151.

Sir L. West to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 276.)
My Lord,
Washington, December 12, 1886.
WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch to your Lordship, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 210 of the 22nd October last, and to the observation of Sir J. Drummond Hay thereupon, copy of which accompanied your Lordship's despatch No. 227, Very Confidential, of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a cutting from the "New York World," giving copy of a letter addressed to M. Perdicaris by the Assistant Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Extract from the "New York World" of December 11, 1886.

CONSUL MATTHEWS REBUKED.

[Special to the "World."]

Trenton, N.J., December 10.

A DESPATCH from Tangier, Morocco, recently told how Ion Perdicaris, a well-known American, had been in September imprisoned and fined there for interfering with the American Consul in the arrest of a Moorish debtor. M. Perdicaris, who has charged repeatedly that the system of imprisonment of debtors in Morocco was a frightful abuse, at once appealed to the authorities at Washington. To-day M. Perdicaris, who has since then been visiting Trenton, received the following letter from Washington:—

"Sir,
"In reply to your communication dated the 18th October, with inclosures relative, among other matters, to the fine of imprisonment to which you were subjected on the 7th September by the Consul of the United States at Tangier for alleged contempt of the Consular Court, I have to inform you that the Consul has been notified of the Department's disapproval of his action, and directed to make restitution of the fine and costs collected from you on that occasion.

"I am, &c.
(Signed) "JAMES D. PORTER, Assistant Secretary."

No. 152.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 886.)

Foreign Office, December 30, 1886.

My Lord,
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 650 of the 24th instant, forwarding a despatch in regard to the case of General Hamid Benayad, which your Lordship had received on that day under flying seal from Consul-General Sir Lambert Playfair, and I have to convey to you my approval of the action which your Excellency proposes to take in consequence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

No. 153.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to Messrs. Tweedie.**Foreign Office, December 30, 1886.*

Gentlemen,
I AM directed by the Earl of Iddesleigh to acquaint you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Algiers, to whom a copy of your letter of the 10th instant in regard to the case of General Hamid Benayad had been sent. In that despatch Sir L. Playfair reports that there has been no delay whatever on his part, no Resident-General having been at Tunis since the summer. That he went to Tunis on purpose to urge this and other matters, and had just returned without being able to do so, as M. Massicault's departure for his post had been delayed owing to the recent change of Government in France.

Sir L. Playfair expresses his intention of returning to Tunis soon after the new year, when he will leave nothing undone to secure your client's interest.

I am to add that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, to whom Sir L. Playfair's last Report has been communicated, will take an early opportunity of directing the attention of the recently appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 154.

Viscount Lyons to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 665.)

Paris, December 30, 1886.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 650 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I spoke yesterday to M. Flourens of the case of General Hamid Benayad.

After referring to the *note verbale* on the subject presented by Mr. Egerton to M. de Freycinet on the 18th October last, I explained the case to M. Flourens, and requested his Excellency to recommend it to M. Massicault, the new Resident-General at Tunis.

M. Flourens took a note of what I said, and promised to attend to the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

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